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BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12 | 2023

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IRREGULAR by MANJUL



Because we are hardcore nationalists and we love Bharat!

Nifty scales mount 20K

Mumbai: Nifty scaled the record 20,000 mark for the first time while benchmark Sensex jumped by 528 points to regain the 67,000 level as robust buying by domestic investors helped equity markets extend the winning run to the seventh straight session Monday. The G20 summit and buying in index majors Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank also added to winning momentum in equities. P11

SC BLOW TO BABUS

A five-judge Constitution bench holds that its 2014 verdict pertaining to top level babus' immunity in corruption cases will have retrospective effect

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: The Supreme Court ruled Monday a provision of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, which made the Centre's approval mandatory before launching a probe in corruption cases against officers of the rank of joint secretary and above in the Central government, will stand nullified since the date of its insertion September 11, 2003.

In a unanimous verdict, a fivejudge Constitution bench headed

by Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul ruled that the apex court's May 6, 2014 verdict, which had struck down section 6-A (1) of the DSPE Act, 1946, providing immunity to such officers in graft cases, will have retrospective effect.

The bench noted that Parliament amended the law and inserted section 17A in the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 with effect from July 26, 2018 providing for the statutory need for sanction to prosecute but without any classification of government servants.

In a way, the protection to the government officials in cases under the anti-graft law was revived by the Centre through an amendment in 2018 and this provision has continued to remain in the statute book.

The bench, also comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Abhay S Oka, Vikram Nath and JK



dict on the issue whether the declaration made by a Constitution bench May 6, 2014 that section 6A of the DSPE Act being unconstitutional, can be applied retrospectively in context with Article 20 of the Constitution. Article 20 of the Constitution

provides for protection in respect of conviction for offences. The apex court, in its May 2014 judgement, had held as in-

valid section 6A(1) of the Act, observing that protection in section 6A has the "propensity of shielding the corrupt".

In its judgement delivered

Monday, the bench held it is crystal clear that once a law has been declared unconstitutional, being violative of Part-III of the Constitution, then it would be held to be "void ab initio (from the very beginning)... Unenforceable and non est (orders that can be ignored altogether) in view of Article 13(2) of the Constitution and its interpretation by authoritative pronouncements.'

"Thus, the declaration made by the Constitution bench in the case of Subramanian Swamy (May 6, 2014) will have retrospective operation. Section 6A of the DSPE Act is held to be not in force from the date of its insertion i.e. September 11, 2003," the bench said in its 106-page verdict.

In March 2016, a two-judge bench of the apex court had referred the issue to a larger bench. The bench had reserved its verdict on the issue November 2 last year.

Naveen flags off Startup Yatra, Startup Xpress'23



■ Startup Odisha rolls out 4 dedicated vans, which will cover different schools and colleges across state

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Monday flagged off Odisha Startup Yatra and Startup Xpress 2023 that aims to promote startup ideas and entrepreneurship at the grassroots level.

Secretary to the CM (5T) VK Pandian, Minister Pratap Keshari Deb, MSME Principal Secretary Saswat Mishra and Director Omkar Rai were present on the occasion.

This edition is 2.5 times bigger than the past and will connect more than 25,000 students from over 260 institutions with an aim to generate more than 3,500 ideas to foster innovation and entrepreneurship, officials said.

The Startup Odisha has rolled

out four dedicated vans, which will cover different schools and colleges in all 30 districts of the state, they said.

After the completion of the

yatra, 50 shortlisted ideas from Startup Yatra will be invited for a three-day acceleration programme. Thereafter, top 25 ideas will be invited to O-Hub (the startup hub building) for the demonstrations. Thereafter ten selected students will be awarded seed funding of ₹3 lakh each to develop their ideas into viable startup ventures, the officials said.

Additionally, top 20 ideas from Startup Xpress 2023 will be invited for final pitching. Of them 10 ideas will be awarded with a cash prize of ₹10,000 each to encourage the young students and their entrepreneurial spirit, they said.

Since its inception, Startup Odisha has supported and facilitated more than 1,700 startups, with 600 of them led by women directors, founders and cofounders, they added.

Paid less, UP charmers release snakes in train

■ Chaos ensues for over half an hour in the Chambal Express unreserved compartment as passengers scramble to get onto the upper berths

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kanpur (UP), Sept 11: In a bizarre incident, four snake charmers, upset over lack of earnings from train passengers,

> Ajay Kumar Das 4189872XXXX

ବିଜୁ ସାସ୍ଥ୍ୟ କଲ୍ୟାଣ ଯୋଜନା Swasthya Kalyan Yojana

released the reptiles in a compartment of the Chambal Express in Uttar Pradesh to scare the passengers.

For more than half an hour, there was chaos in the unreserved compartment as passengers scrambled to get onto the upper berths. Some also hid in the washroom to save themselves from the snakes. The incident took place Saturday.

One of the passengers who boarded the train, which operates between Howrah and



Gwalior, at Banda station said that the performance started soon after as the snake charmers flipped the lid of a basket and a snake emerged, swaying as they played their flute. Once the

POSITIVE PATIENT
FEEDBACK

performance ended, they asked the passengers for money. "Some people gave the money,

some declined. It is not clear how but the snake charmers got into an argument with some persons who had refused to pay. At one point, they suddenly released the snakes in the compartment.' he said. Somebody then called the railway control room.

Akhilesh Pratap Singh, the officer in-charge of the Government Railway Police at Mahoba station, said they received information about snakes being released from the railway control room.

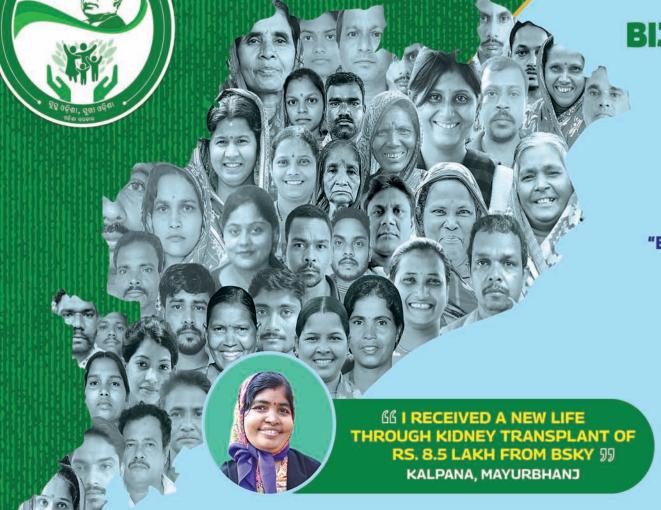
The snake charmers eventually caught the snakes they had released and got off the train moments before it entered the Mahoba station, the train's next stop after Banda.

Singh said, "We spoke to the passengers at Mahoba railway station and they confirmed the incident. The snakes did not bite any passenger but did cause significant distress." he said.

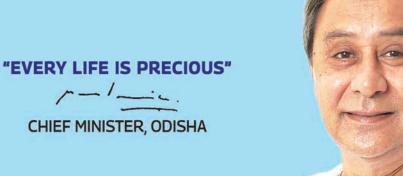
DSPL - 188



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CHRIS EVANS, ALBA BAPTISTA TIE KNOT IN INTIMATE CEREMONY

Actors Chris Evans and Alba Baptista got married during a ceremony at a private estate in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Many of the couple's famous friends were spotted in nearby Boston for the wedding, including Evans' Marvel costars.

BARRYMORE BRINGING TALK SHOW BACK WITHOUT WRITERS

Hollywood actress-turned-TV host Drew Barrymore is bringing her self-titled talk show back to the small screen without writers amid the ongoing strike action by the Writers Guild of America.

TO SIR WITH LOVE

CELEBRATES THE

LEGEND'S LEGACY

An audio message from eminent poet and

lyricist Gulzar was played on the occasion



accuracy • reliability • trust

You may pick up the hammer and chisel today. No, you're not taking up sculpture; you're finally giving in to your spouse's demands to take some home improvement measures. It's in your interest to be speedy and focused, as you are the guilty party, says Ganesha.

TAURUS

There is a strong possibility of receptivity and sensitivity in your love life. On the down side, your negativity may lead to mediocre results. You are a fire-fighter when it comes to others' problems, but can forget digging a well for your own

GEMINI

Emotional and material security will hold equal importance today. You want to be in love, but you know that love can't buy you dough. In academics, you will be able to solve whatever problems you set your mind on. Your spare time will be spent on devising methods of making the best use of your knowledge.

CANCER

In all likelihood, this is going to be a fairly easy day for tough part of the day would be how to spend it. There will be hardly anything to do, anyone to talk to. Ideally, this is what you would call a perfect day.

Call it an epiphany of sorts, but today promises to be a day of revelations for you. Finally, things fall into place as your Odyssey nears its end, and you come to terms with your hidden talents, says Ganesha. Follow your heart and dive into the bottomless pool of your imagination.

Ganesha predicts that your writing skills will possibly help you vent your feelings without offending others. You will successfully complete your pending assignments. Great success will knock at your door in anything and everything you undertake today, predicts Ganesha.

Health is always a key issue, and today, you may have to pay some special attention person in the family, or even you. Take the time to give it your full attention in order to avoid any further complications. You may do well to undergo a physical examination yourself.

SCORPIO

The target is locked in and the arrow is shot. It is only a matter of time before Cupid celebrates and hits the bull's eye and you find yourself in the mush of things. Sentiments and romance will be the order of the day

SAGITTARIUS

Appreciation for all that excellent work you have put in is a no-go for you! Yet you stand to gain nothing by losing heart. While the acknowledgement you look for has been delayed, Ganesha says it has not been denied and is in the offing already.

CAPRICORN

New projects and partner ship will keep you busy today, says Ganesha. If a meeting is scheduled, you may be praised vociferously for your ability to make the right decision at the right time. You may also bag rewards for the commendable efforts you'd put in the past.

AQUARIUS

If Elvis Presley is who you dreamed of being, today may be your day! You seem to impress one and all, and even money flows in! You play smart today and everything seems to work in your favour. Take care, says Ganesha, things may not be as they seem.

PISCES

You can probably count your chickens before they hatch today, for it is likely that every nest-egg you expect to mint money will. A good day to trade in the stock markets as well, as long as you keep in mind that the horns of a rampaging Bull market can be every bit as deadly as the paws of a lumbering Bear market, says Ganesha.

Ananya sets sights on acting growth

Mumbai: Actress Ananya Panday is currently basking in the success of her latest movie *Dream Girl 2*, in which she starred alongside Ayushmann Khurrana, has opened up on how she is focusing on becoming a better performer and improving herself on the acting front.

In a recent interview, the Gehraiyaan actress said, "Growing up, I wanted to be a star. I always wanted to be a film heroine and have my big Bollywood song and dance sequences. I wanted to be part of blockbuster films. I fell in love with acting after becoming an actor. When I began working, I realized there was so much more to do. I am gravitating towards being a better performer, improving myself and hoping that people see that side of me.

The actress added that her

Actress Pooja Bhatt in

a recent interview spoke

at length about the un-

Bhatt on the lips.

warranted attention that

was given to the magazine

cover in 1990 where she was

because I see it very sim-

ple incident. A frozen

moment can be

represented

and misrep-

resented in

anyway. At

this age also

I am still a 10

pound child

for my father.'

seen kissing her dad Mahesh

Elaborating on the issues, the

Bombay Begums star asserted that the mo-

ment that was captured was 'absolutely in-

nocent.' On being asked if she regrets the

photo shoot, Pooja Bhatt was quick to reply, "No,

Mumbai:

different from what she has played in the past. "I know that the kind of films that I have done before have been urban, and people have only seen me in a way that they associate my real-life personality to be. But, this is different. This film has already be-

exciting.

come my highestgrosser. and it's



Pooja calls lip kiss

with dad

'innocent'

Calling out the media

ther said, "So it was a moment that was

absolutely innocent which was captured.

not defend it here. If you want to see the

you can do anything.'

relation between a father and a

daughter in a different way then

While in Bigg Boss House,

Pooja Bhatt was visited by

her dad Mahesh Bhatt,

who shared several an-

ecdotes from his life. He

also opened up about

how Pooja became the

ily during tough times.

bread earner in his fam-

Whatever its connotations, people may read it

as they want, they will see it as they wish I can-

for viewing the picture in an in-

appropriate way, Pooja Bhatt fur-

Cuttack: People from all walks of life paid rich tribute to legendary poet Jayanta Mahapatra during a meet hosted by Cuttack Heritage Walks (CHW) and the Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) here Sunday at the latter's conference hall. Attending the event titled To Sir With Love, Orissa

Court Shashikanta Mishra recalled a few memorable moments he spent with the acclaimed Stating of his half-decade-

long association with the poet, Chinmay Jena, a retired professor in English, said, "He was not just a luminary of Indian English

Mahapatra led a simple life and purewas

hearted like a child." Frederick Wright, another retired English professor, read

JAYANTA MAHAPATRA **REMEMBERED**

a few lines from Jayanta's book Odisha. Similarly, poets Bijay Malla and Amiya Ranjan Mohapatra read excerpts from Mahapatra's autobiography Bhor Motira Kanaphula.

LecturerJnanee Debashis Mishra examined Jayanta's works, while poet Sangram

Mumbai:

written by Japanese poet Kazuko Shiraishi.

Among others who read other poems by the celebrated poet were Gayatribala Panda, Suresh Navak. Rabindra Kumar Swain, Prasanna Swain, Sarita Samal, Kedar Mishra, Ashok Pattnaik, Basudev Sunai, Goparanjan Mishra, and Jayant Das. Publisher Manu Das read out two letters addressed to Mahapatra. Dipak Samantrai

of CHW coordinated the event. An audio message from eminent poet and lyricist Gulzar was played on the occasion.

com-

fort-

able

doing this

on screen

so why did

vou? And I

was like wow,

Jena recited a poem on him

When Ash got legal notices from fans

Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan who never shies away from speaking her mind, had opened up about not being comfortable with her on-screen In an old interview the Devdas actress said, "I did it once prominently in the movie

Dhoom and it was

so topical, and

you'll be surprised. mean I actually got a couple of notices, legal notices, from some people in the country turning around and saying 'You are iconic. vou're an example to our girls you have led

vour life in

such an ex-

emplary

manner.

they're not

SUDOKU

8 9

5

3

3 9

5

SOLUTIONS

CROSSWOR

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a

manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains

4

9 3

2

the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any

I'm just an actor, doing my job, and here I am being asked to offer an explanation for a couple of seconds in a two, threehour piece of cinema. Further speaking about the same, she revealed that she had already declined a couple

of scripts purely on the basis of not being comfortable with the very intimate scenes and the kissing because I'd never done that on screen and I just wasn't very comfortable with the idea. She added, "I was hesitant to engage in on-screen kissing, as I believed my audience wouldn't be comfortable with it. To

test their doubts, I decided to do it in an Indian film. My experience confirmed that public displays of affection are uncommon in Indian cinema, with on-screen kisses often feeling forced and separate from the overall scene, rather than a natural part of the storytelling.

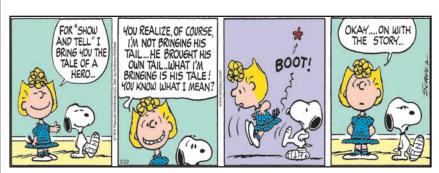
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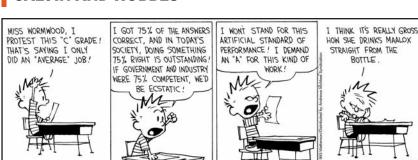
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PEANUTS



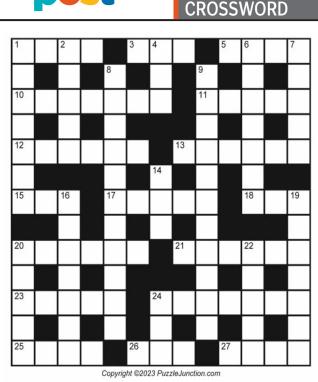
CALVIN AND HOBBES



BREVITY



FUN POST



21 The Thinker,

e.g.

23 Colossus

24 Spelling bee,

for one

district

chemical

27 Hankering

25 London

26 Caustic

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Across

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- 10 Makes a phone
- call (5,2) 11 Speculate
- 12 Acquire 13 Truant
- 15 Defraud

(3,3)

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- 17 Sufficient
- <u>Down</u>
- 1 Sitting room 2 Basic belief
- 4 Hiatus 6 Sommeliers,
- e.g. 7 Skirt fold
- 8 Desires
- 9 Like some
- rural streets 14 Gibbon, for
- 16 Entrance
- 19 Big cat
- 20 Nibbles
- 22 Pick up the tab
- 24 Coquettish

1 7 3 6 SUDOKU 1 6 8 4 7 2 3 5 8 1 2 8 9 4 1 6 8

2 4 3 7 6 5 9 9 7 4 2 3 1 8 6 5 9 2 5 3 7

CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

HERE. NOW POST POST



RAIN HAVOC

19 people have been killed in the past 24 hours as rain lashed Uttar Pradesh, disrupting normal life NATIONAL P9



KIM TO MEET PUTIN

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will visit Russia and he is expected to hold a highly anticipated meeting with Putin

INTERNATIONAL



DJOKO REIGNS SUPREME

Djokovic claims his 24th Grand Slam title winning the US Open after beating

Medvedev in the final

SPORTS P12

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BHUBANESWAR | TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12 | 2023

Manipur: Terror groups active

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi/Imphal, Sept 11: Terrorists belonging to banned groups United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and People's Liberation Army (PLA) were allegedly part of the mob from which gunshots were fired at an army officer that left him severely injured in Manipur, officials said Monday.

Central security agencies have now warned about the possibility of terrorists mingling with crowds during any protest to stoke tensions in the restive state, they said.

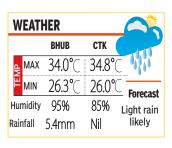
The warning has come after a Lt Colonel of the army was injured last week during a standoff with a group of people, including Meira Paibis (women vigilantes), who attempted to attack tribals at Molnoi village near Pallel in Tengnoupal district but were stopped by the army and

More shield for guild members

New Delhi: The Supreme Court

Monday extended till September 15 the protection from coercive action it has granted to four mem bers of the Editors Guild of India (EGI) in connection with two FIRs lodged against them, and sought the view of the Manipur government on whether to transfer their plea for quashing the FIRs and other relief to the Delhi High Court for adjudication. A bench comprising Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and justices PS Narasimha and Manoj Misra observed orally as to how FIRs were lodged on the basis of a report of the fact-finding committee of the EGI when the four were not involved in criminal activities on the ground. The top court said it was not inclined to quash the FIRs and was mulling whether their plea can be transferred to the Delhi High Court or the Manipur High Court should take it up. The court decided to hear the matter September 15.







the Asia Cup Super 4 match in Colombo, Monday. Later, Kuldeep Yadav's 5-wicket haul helped India secure a massive 228-run victory, their biggest win in terms of runs over the arch rivals BCCI TWITTER

UG, PG admission timeline revised

Bhubaneswar: The Department of Higher Education (DHE) Monday released the revised timeline for phase II UG and PG admission for 2023-24 session. As per notification issued by DHE, the last date for applying through the common application form (CAF) for UG is September 16. Phase II admission to UG course is available on the website: www.samsodisha.gov.in.

Elephant attacks 2 forest officials

Baripada: Two forest officials were injured due to an elephant attack in Mayurbhani district, an official said Monday. Forester Pradeep Dehury, in charge of the Badampur Section under the Betnoti forest range, was seriously hurt in the attack Sunday night while Jatin, a member of the elephant protection squad, suffered a minor injury, Baripada divisional forest officer Santosh Joshi said. The forester has suffered chest bone fractures. He was first admitted to Baripada Hospital and later shifted to SCB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack for further treatment, the DFO said. Jatin is undergoing treatment at Baripada Hospital and is doing

9 projects worth over ₹1 lakh crore get nod

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: The state government Monday approved nine industrial projects involving a cumulative investment of Rs 1,01,804 crore.

The projects are expected to create employment for over 28,000

The High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has approved the investment projects during its meeting held here Monday.

These projects will be set up in Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Khurda, Paradip, Bhadrak, Ganjam and Koraput.

In the steel sector, the government has approved the proposal of JSW Utkal Steel Limited to enhance the capacity of its proposed integrated steel plant at Jatadhar in Jagatsinghpur district from 12 MTPA (million tonne per annum) to 24 MTPA with an investment of Rs 75,000 crore, the state government said in a statement. The HLCA has also approved the proposal of Jindal Ferrous Limited to establish a 2.35 MTPA carbon steel plant at Kalinga Nagar in Jajpur district, with an investment of Rs 3.449 crore, it said.



The industrial projects will be set up in Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Khurda, Paradip, Bhadrak, **Ganiam and Koraput**

Similarly, a Rs 1,500 crore investment proposal by MSP Metallics Ltd to expand its unit at Marakuta in Jharsuguda also got the nod of the state government.

In the green energy equipment & Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) sector, Avaada Electro Pvt Ltd's proposal of Rs 11,300 crore to set up a manufacturing facility for ingots, wafers, solar cells, and modules in Haldiapada in Khordha district received the HLCA's approval.

The state government has approved L&T Energy Green Tech Ltd's investment proposal of Rs 1,030 crore for the establishment of a green ammonia plant in Paradeep of Jagatsinghpur dis-

Similarly, the proposal of Berger Paints India Ltd to set up a manufacturing unit worth Rs 1,458 crore in Khordha got the nod from the panel.

As per the decision taken at the meeting, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd will set up a polyester products manufacturing unit in the Textile Park at Bhandaripokhari in Bhadrak district by invest ing Rs 4,377 crore.

Petronet LNG Limited will set up an LNG terminal with a capacity of 40 lakh MT at Gopalpur in Ganjam district. The company has committed to invest Rs 2,306 crore for this proj-

Besides, Toshali Cement Private Limited's expansion proposal to increase the clinker capacity to 1.75 MTPA and cement grinding capacity to 1.40 MTPA in its plant at Ampavalli in Koraput district was also approved by the government. The company will invest Rs 1,383 crore for this project.

Trial run starts for 2nd Vande Bharat



Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: The trial run of Odisha's second Vande Bharat Express to be run on the Puri-Rourkela route began Monday, a railway official said.

It started between Puri and Talcher Road stations, he said.

The trial run began at 9.30am from Puri railway station, and the train reached Talcher Road station around 12.30pm, the official said.

The Indian Railways will soon launch the second Vande Bharat Express in the state between Puri and Rourkela

The train will run on the Puri-Bhubaneswar-Cuttack-Dhenkanal-Angul-Rourkela route to cater to passengers between the coastal and western Odisha

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had, in May, virtually flagged off Odisha's first Vande Bharat Express from Puri to

SC seeks Andhra's reply on Odisha suit

KULDEEP SINGH, OP

New Delhi, Sept 11: The Supreme Court has directed the state of Andhra Pradesh to file its response on an original suit filed by Odisha in respect to border dispute related to Kotia group of villages between both the states.

The apex court also issued notice to Odisha as none appeared on behalf of it during the hearing before the court.

A bench of Justice Sanjay Karol asked Andhra Pradesh to file a written statement and rejoinder in response to the suit filed by Odisha within a period of eight weeks. Odisha has pleaded the apex court to declare that the state has absolute right to possess and administer the disputed Kotia group of villages. The matter will be next heard November 3.

"As prayed for, the defendants are permitted to file a written statement and rejoinder within a period of eight weeks'," the bench said. Significantly, the apex court issued notice to Odisha returnable in eight weeks as none represented the state in the court during the hearing.

"It appears that since none appears for the plaintiff let the notices be issued returnable within eight weeks. Learned counsel for the respondent in-

formed that learned counsel appearing for the plaintiff is no longer in active practice. As such Court notices be issued to the plaintiff," the bench said.

Earlier, advocate (now Justice)_ Sibo Sankar Mishra was appearing for Odisha in Kotia border dispute matter before the apex court till his appointment as the Justice of Orissa High Court. He took oath as the Orissa High Court judge September 5.

In the suit filed under Article 131 in the Supreme Court, the state of Odisha pleaded the apex court to declare the Kotia group of villages as part and parcel and within the territory of Odisha. It also prayed the court to declare that Odisha has the absolute right to possess and administer those areas to the exclusion of Andhra Pradesh.

Odisha pleaded the SC to restrain Andhra Pradesh from intruding or trespassing in the Kotia villages in future.

"Pass a decree of injunction, prohibiting and restraining Andhra Pradesh, its servants and agents, from intruding or committing acts of trespass or in any way interfering, in future, with the possession and administration of Odisha over the 'Disputed Area' or any part thereof," Odisha prayed in the original suit.

Sweden pushes book reading, handwriting in tech-heavy schools

s young children went back to school across Sweden last month, many of their teachers were putting a new emphasis on printed books, quiet reading time and handwriting practice and devoting less time to tablets, independent online research and key-

boarding skills. The return to more traditional ways of learning is a response to politicians and experts questioning whether the country's hyper-digitalised approach to education, including the introduction of tablets in nursery schools, had led to a decline in

Swedish Minister for Schools Lotta Edholm, who took office 11 months ago as part of a new centre-right coalition government, was one of the biggest critics of the all-out embrace of technology.

'Sweden's students need more textbooks," Edholm said in March. "Physical books are important for student learning.

The minister announced last month in a statement that the government wants to reverse the decision by the National Agency for Education to make digital devices mandatory in preschools. It plans to go further and to completely end digital learning for children under age 6, the ministry also told The Associated Press

Although the country's students score above the European average for reading ability, an international assessment of fourthgrade reading levels, the Progress in International Reading Literacy Study, highlighted a decline among Sweden's children between 2016 and 2021. In 2021, Swedish fourth graders

averaged 544 points, a drop from the 555 average in 2016. However, their performance still placed the country in a tie with Taiwan for the seventh-highest overall test score.

In comparison, Singapore – which topped the rankings — improved its PIRLS reading scores from 576 to 587 during the same period, and England's average reading achieve ment score fell

slightly, from 559 in 2016 to 558

Some learning deficits may have resulted from the coronavirus pandemic or reflect a growing number of immigrant students who don't speak

Swedish as their first language. but an overuse of screens during school lessons may cause youngsters to fall behind in core subjects,

ucation experts say.

"There's clear scientific evidence that digital tools impair rather than enhance student learning," Sweden's Karolinska Institute said in a statement last month on the country's national digitalization strategy in education.

"We believe the focus should return to acquiring knowledge through printed textbooks and teacher expertise, rather than acquiring knowledge primarily from freely available digital sources that have not been vetted for accuracy," said the institute, a highly respected medical school focused on research.

The rapid adoption of digital learning tools also has drawn concern from the United Nations' education and culture agency.

In a report published last month, UNESCO issued an "urgent call for appropriate use of technology in education". The report urges countries to speed up internet connections at schools, but at the same time warns that technology in education should be implemented in a way so that it never replaces inperson, teacher-led instruction and supports the shared objective of quality education for all.

In the Swedish capital, Stockholm, 9-year-old Liveon Palmer, a third grader at Djurgardsskolan elementary school, expressed his approval of spending more school hours offline. "I like writing more in school, like on paper, because it just feels better, you know," he told the AP during a recent

Odia scientist bags SS Bhatnagar award

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: Odishaborn Dipti Ranjan Sahoo from IIT-Delhi is among the nine recipients of the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards for 2022 which was announced

Monday. Sahoo shares the honour with Rajnish Kumar of IIT-Madras in the 'Engineering Sciences category. The other winners include immunologist Dipyaman Ganguli of CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata; microbiologist Ashwani Kumar from CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh; biologist Maddika Subba Reddy from the Hyderabad-based Centre for DNA Fingerprinting Diagnostics; Akkattu T Biju of IISc Bangalore; and Debabrata Maiti of IIT-

Bombay are among the awardees.

Serve Odisha whenever you get chance: 5T Secy



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: 5T Secretary VK Pandian Monday interacted with the first batch of trainees at skill development centre (SDC) in Keonjhar encouraging them to aspire for excellence in their professional lives and serve their state in any way possible.

Joining the students virtually, in a keynote address, Pandian said, "This training programme has been organised for you by the Odisha government. Therefore, in whichever place or country you are, whenever you get a chance to serve Odisha, please do it."

The training programme for the first batch students at SDC started Monday with 180 students, who have taken admis-

BMC reviews dengue

prevention measures

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: BMC

Commissioner Vijay Amruta

Kulange conducted a compre-

hensive review Monday of the on-

going efforts to combat dengue

in Bhubaneswar through a video

conference. The meeting saw

the participation of several key

officials, including Additional

Commissioner Subhendu Sahu,

Additional Citizen Health Officer

Deepak Kumar Bisoi, health of-

ficers from the City Health

Mission, all deputy commis-

sioners, zonal commissioners,

dengue situation in Bhubaneswar

is currently under control,

Kulange highlighted the impor-

tance of continued vigilance in

areas with reported cases. He

stressed the need for sustained

community awareness efforts

and directed officials to closely

monitor activities such as bush

cutting and sanitation in the City.

Additionally, the Commissioner

outlined the procedure for re-

porting dengue cases to govern-

ment hospitals and monitoring

He stressed the need for door-

to-door awareness campaign in-

volving medical professionals.

which will further strengthen

community mobilization. He

urged the doctors to actively

participate in the campaign,

which is set to run for the next seven days, starting Tusday. The

campaign will be particularly focused on Saheed Nagar,

Nayapalli, Patia, Acharya Vihar,

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The Record of Rights

Land in the Name of

Nuagaon, PS:

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lost. We will not be

Upendra Kumar Tarei,

corresponding to Khata

Krushnaprasad has been

responsible for any other

person using the same.

Number 136/126, Plot

Number: 61 in Mouza:

(Patta) for 15 Decimals of

S/o Ranganath Tarei, R/o:

and Unit IX areas.

the corresponding blood tests.

While acknowledging that the

and senior BMC officials.

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

THE TRAINING PROGRAMME AT SDC STARTED WITH 180 STUDENTS AS IN FIRST BATCH

THE TRAINING IS BEING ORGANISED UNDER THE 'ODISHA UP-SKILLING AND PLACEMENT PROGRAMME'

AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF TRAINING, TECH MAHINDRA HAS ASSURED TO HIRE ALL THE CANDIDATES WITH A CTC OF 4.25L PER ANNUM

sion in the first phase, in attendance. The programme is being organised under the 'Odisha upskilling and placement programme (OUPP).'

The programme, under the 5T initiative, aims to train the youths of the state, train them in cutting edge technologies and portunities in the IT Sector.

Executed in its first phase in Keonjhar, with Tech Mahindra Limited as training partner and Tata Steel Foundation as skilling partner, the programme is offering free-of-cost training, lodging, boarding and transport facilities for selected students from across the districts," informed an official.

Under the OUPP, youths will be trained in advanced technologies such as Java Full Stack Development, Cloud Technology and Data Analytics.

"Each batch would be taught for 6 months. In the first batch under this programme, 180 candidates have joined from across the state. After successful completion of training, Tech Mahindra has assured to hire all the candidates. Selected students will be given placement by Tech Mahindra with a CTC of 4.25 lakh per annum," informed the official.

The trained candidates, after placement in Tech Mahindra, will be designated as software engineers and they will further be promoted to senior software engineers and tech leads, giving them a secure and much-desired career path.



EXPRESSIONS: Artistes perform Odissi during MSME Promotion Council of India conference organised at Bhanjkala Mandap in Bhubaneswar, Monday

Ex-headmistress gets 3-yr RI for corruption

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: A special Vigilance court here Monday convicted a retired head-mistress in a corruption case pertaining to supply of materials for mid-day meals to the school and sentenced her to three years of rigorous imprisonment.

The Special judge also imposed a cash fine of Rs 5,000 on Basanti Devi, the former headmistress of UGUP school, Bada Nuagaon, Jatni in Khurda district, and awarded additional imprisonment of three more months in case she defaulted in payment of the fine amount.

Basanti Devi was nabbed by the Vigilance sleuths for demanding and, subsequently, accepting a bribe from the president of a SHG for preparation of their bill and submission of the same to the block authority towards supply of materials for mid-day meals program in the school and drawl of payment. Thereafter, she was booked under Section 13(2) r/w 13(1)(d)/7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act,1988. The Vigilance department had later filed the chargesheet in the case and she

was tried afterwards. The court further sentenced her to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of 2 vears and payment of Rs 5.000 fine, and in default of payment of fine, to undergo further rigorous imprisonment for a period of 3 months more for the offence under Section 7 of PC Act, 1988. Both the sentences are to run concurrently.

The Vigilance department will now move the competent authority for stoppage of pension to Basanti Devi following her

'SABUJA PAHADA' PROJECT

4,000 saplings planted at Bachhera Hill in Jatni



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: With an aim to restore, rejuvenate and increase the green cover in the Capital and its outskirts, more than 4,000 saplings of different species were planted at Bachhera Hill in Jatni, a major suburban area of Bhubaneswar, Monday to mark the launch of 'Sabuja Pahada' (Greening Hillocks)

The event was jointly organised by the Forest, Environment and Climate Change Department, Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) and Khurda district administration.

Nearly 6.000 people fr cross-section of society thronged the site to participate in the mega plantation programme supported by the divisional forest office, Khurda, Jatni Municipality

Commissionerate Police. Saplings of wide variety of indigenous species were planted on five hectares of land at Bachhera Hill which spreads over 26 acres of land.

Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Debidutta Biswal said, "With the support of all stakeholders, we are planting around 4,000 saplings at Bachhera Hill today, which will be converted into an ecological park by BDA in the days to come."

BDA vice-chairman Balwant Singh said, "The objective of tree plantations is to know the value of environment, benefits of trees, beautification in and around Bachhera Hill area. Tree plantation is a great way to increase students' interest in their local environment and achieve academic goals for which we tried to involve more number of students in this programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector and DM, Khurda K Sudarshan Chakravarthy said. "It should be our collective responsibility to preserve and protect the green cover in and around living areas.'

Under the initiative of 'Sabuja Pahada', the Forest Department and BDA aim to plant a whopping 30,000 saplings within two weeks in three places.

37 CIPET trained students get jobs

POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: Eastern Coal Filelds Limited (ECL), Asansol collaborated with CIPET: CSTS to provide job opportunities to 37 students in various leading companies of India following their technical skill development training at CIPET.

The students who underwent placement training belonged to SP Mines Chitra, Jharkhand and Asansol. On successful completion of their training, the students were provided employment opportunities at various industries like Tata Auto Comp Systems, Pune, Cam tools Industries PVT Limited, Pune, Decon India Plastics Pvt. Limited, Pune, Araymond India Pvt. Limited, Pune and Apex Technopladt Pvt Limited, Maharashtra.

A valedictory function was held at CIPET: CSTS Monday where CIPET director and head BP Patro briefed about the objective of the training pro-

ECL, Asansol, Director Personal Ahuti Swain, who_ graced the occasion as chief guest, thanked CIPET for empowering the youth with sustainable livelihood and wished the trainees a bright future. At the event, the students were given placement offer letters. CIPET administrative officer Jayant Kumar Das conducted the programme and offered vote



CSIR-IMMT holds 'One Week One Lab'



ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: 'One Week One Lab' programme kicked off at Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (CSIR-IMMT) Bhubaneswar Monday. The program will continue till September 16.

Union Minister of State for Science & Technology Jitendra Singh launched the 'One Week, One Lab' program April 17, 2023. The program will allow each of the 37 CSIR labs spread across the country to showcase their work to get benefits and for stakeholders to learn about it.

Inaugurating the program, CSIR-IMMT Director Ramanuj Narayan said, "The objective of the program is to create awareness about the available technologies, in the areas of minerals, materials and environmental sustainability and services present at CSIR-IMMT among potential stakeholders.

He said that CSIR-IMMT Bhubaneswar has running successfully the 'JIGYASA' which would inculcate the culture of inquisitiveness on one hand and scientific temper on the other, amongst the school students and their teachers. Under Jigyasa we conduct sci-

ence exhibitions, projects of National Children's Science Congress, teacher workshops and tinkering laboratories. We have also set up Common Research & Technology Development Hub (CRTDH) for the development of entrepreneurship and startups in the areas of mineral and materials processing and new chemical processing.

On the occasion, CSIR-IMMT signed three MoUs with Sri Sri University, BOSE Cuttack, and

HE dept releases revised timeline for phase II UG, PG admission

ARINDAM GANGULY, OP

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: The Department of Higher Education (DHE) Monday released the revised timeline for phase II UG and PG admission for the academic year 2023-24. According to the notification

issued by DHE, the last date for applying through the common application form (CAF) for UG is September 16. As per the revised timeline,

Phase II Admission into UG course is available on the website: www.samsodisha.gov.in. Last date for applying online CAF through www.sam-

sodisha.gov.in is September 16,

(Saturday, 11.45 pm).

Editing of the earlier submitted CAF (for once only) is September 17 (Sunday, 11 am) and September 18 (Monday, 11.45

Reporting for admission by students at allotted institution is from September 27 to 30.

Merit list will be published

Similarly, as per the revised timeline, Phase II admission

into PG course and availability of online CAF on the website: www.samsodisha.gov.in is

September 13. Last date for applying online CAF thought www.samsodisha.gov.in is September 22. Reporting for admission by students at allotted institution

is from October 3-5

Merit list will be published

NATIONAL LEVEL **HANDLOOM EXPO INAUGURATED**

Bhubaneswar: Odisha State **Handloom Weavers Cooperative** Society Limited (Boyanika) is organising the 20th National Level Handloom Expo at Unit-III IDCO Exhibition Ground here from Monday till October 8. The exhibition was inaugurated by Padma Vibhusan Sudarshan Sahoo, Pranati Chhotray, Boyanika managing director, Prakash Chandra Mehera, Boyanika president, and other officials. "The National Level Handloom Expo is organised with an aim to give opportunities handloom artisans of the state to sell their handloom products. It will also enable our state weavers to interact and exchange their skills and techniques, will improve their cost effectiveness, help them study the colour and design patterns prevailing in contemporary markets in different states," said an official.

Dr Rajkishore Das no more

POST NEWS NETWORK

Cuttack, Sept 11: Noted physician Professor Dr Raikishore Das breathed his last at his Biju Patnaik Chhak resi

dence here around 10am Monday. He was

A pall of gloom descended on medical fraternity as soon as the news of his demise spread in the morning. Many eminent persons visited his residence to pay tribute to the departed soul.

Das' mortal remains were consigned to flames at Khannagar crematorium in the evening, said sources. His son Jashobant Das lit funeral pyre.

Born in Mangalpur village under Nischintakoili block of Cuttack district in 1936, Das did his early education at village school while his father Bala Mukund Das worked as a sub-registrar.

Das' mother Hema Manjari breathed her last during treatment at SCB Medical College and Hospital when he was in Class VIII. He cleared his matriculation from Ravenshaw Collegiate School here in 1951. Subsequently, he passed his ISc from

and later completed his medical education from SCB. In 1989-90, Das assumed charge as HOD of Medicine department at the medical college before taking voluntary retirement in 1991. Notably, Das' daughter Lopamudra is married to RBI

Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Ravenshaw College

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NH-326 turns deathtrap for commuters

BRIDGES AND ROADS IN SHAMBLES DUE TO LACK OF PROPER MAINTENANCE LEADING TO FREQUENT ACCIDENTS

Rayagada, Sept 11: National Highway-326 passing through Rayagada district has turned into a nightmare for commuters due to the presence of a large number of potholes and the dilapidated condition of two bridges. The highway connects Berhampur with Koraput and also is the link to the states of Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. However, as many stretches of the road are not maintained properly, commuters face a harrowing time and accidents are on the rise.

The stretch of NH-326 from the Reliance petrol pump to Amlabhata square in this town is in a deplorable state. Commuters also feel unsafe while using the Naidupeta and Nagabali bridges as they shake a lot whenever a heavy vehicle passes over them. Locals pointed out that given the condition of the bridges, any day a huge mishap



However, without any other NHAI office here is managed by option, hundreds of heavy and four peons and is in shambles. Sources said that SDO Bikram light vehicles as well as cars and two-wheelers use these two Panigrahi is mostly absent and bridges. Local residents said operates out of the division that the apathy of the National office at Sunabeda. Similarly, Highway Authority of India the junior engineer is also mostly (NHAI) has led to such a pitiable unavailable at office. Locals destate. They informed that demanded the presence of a junior engineer permanently at the spite repeated pleas, the NHAI is not taking any steps to repair NHAI office here. the roads and bridges.

It should be stated here that the

The sources also informed that accidents frequently occur dur-

ing the monsoons as commuters fail to identify water-filled potholes. They added that despite NH-326 and the bridges being used regularly by politicians of all parties, no one has made an effort to repair the affected stretches. They added that NHAI carries out repairing work in a very haphazard manner and hence it is of no use. It should be stated here that.

five persons including four chil-

dren died after an under-construction bridge recently caved in at Uparsaja village under Kalyansinghpur block in Rayagada district. The freak mishap had triggered shockwaves all over the state. Residents demanded that the NHAI should immediately take up repairing of the highway and the two bridges before the number of accidents escalate.

Renowned advocate of this

POST NEWS NETWORK

at Kulasahi ghat.

POST NEWS NETWORK

a 'suicide agreement'.

Kendrapara, Sept 11: Forest de-

partment personnel belonging to

the Rajnagar range in this dis-

trict rescued Monday a four feet

long estuarine crocodile which

had got entangled in a fishing net

Officials said that two fisher-

men informed them that the rep-

tile had got entangled in their

Woman dies day after

son, daughter's death

Sohela, Sept 11: A day after her two siblings died by suicide, their mother too breathed her last Monday. All the three, residents of Masterpada vil-

lage in Bargarh district, had consumed pesticide Sunday as part of

The deceased lady was identified as Kumudini Sahu (55). Unable to

bear the grief of the death of her

husband Ariun Sahu, Kumudini, her

son Bansidhar (25) and daughter

Subarna Mahajan (23) had drank pes-

ticide Sunday. All the three were

rushed to the hospital. However,

Bansidhar and Subarna breathed

their last Sunday at VIMSAR in Burla. Kumudini who was undergoing

treatment at the same hospital died

Monday. Their bodies were cremated

Subarna is survived by her two-

year-old daughter. The child is now

in the custody of Subarna's uncle

Police accompanied by a foren-

sic team visited the residence of the

deceased Monday. Sohela police sta-

tion IIC Pranava Murmu said that

they are now waiting for the post-

Police informed that Bansidhar

was a bachelor. However, Subarna de-

spite her marriage was staying at her

parents' house for a substantial pe-

riod before tragedy struck.

Incidentally Arjun had breathed his

last September 6 due to diabetes and

Debarchan Sahu.

mortem report.

hypertension.

It should be stated here that

in the village after post-mortem.

Trapped croc rescued

town, Lavanya Mohan Pattnaik said that he feels unsafe to travel on the highway and the two bridges and demanded urgent repairing.

When contacted over phone, Panigrahi said a proposal has been moved before the higher authorities for construction of two new bridges. He added that repairing work of the damaged stretches of roads will be

fishing net Sunday night. Without trying to do anything, they pulled

the crocodile out of the water on

to the land. They then informed

the Forest officials, Monday

Personnel from the Rajnagar range office then rushed to the

spot. They cut the net to rescue

the crocodile and later after ex-

amining it for injuries, released

morning.

TWO DEAD IN TWO DEAD IN ROAD MISHAP

POST NEWS NETWORK

Phulbani, Sept 11: Two friends were killed when their car collided head-on with a mini truck in Nayagarh district, police said Monday. The accident occurred Sunday night near Mahipur village under Navagarh police station limits, a senior officer said.

The two friends, identified as Sidhartha Sankar Bhoi of Tikabali town and Dharmendra Behera of Gumagarh village in Kandhamal district, died on the spot due to the impact of the collison, the officer added.

According to the police, the accident occurred when the two were returning from Bhubaneswar after admitting Sidhartha's father Sujit Bhoi to a private hospital. Sujit was brought to Bhubaneswar after he suffered a heart attack.



After the autopsy, the bodies have been handed over to the family members of the deceased, the police officer said. Nayagarh police have seized both the vehicles and started investigating into the accident. he added. Police are trying to ascertain whether the accident took place due to any me-

chanical fault in either of the two vehicles or if it was due to rash driving.

it back into the water. **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER** RURAL WORKS DIVISION-II, GANJAM, BERHAMPUR

> Government of Odisha e-Procurement Notice Bid Identification No. Online Tender/13/SERWD-II/2023-24 Memo No. 5797/RWD-IIGB, Date: 7.9.23

Phone- 0680-2404096; E-Mail: eerwgmt@yahoo.co.in

.0-301				
Name of the Work	:	Road Works		
Estimated Cost	:	Rs.6.72 Lakh to Rs.46.01 Lak as per Annexure		
Period of Completion	:	30 (Thirty) Days to 60 (Sixty) Days as per Annexure		
Date & Time of Availability of Bid Documents in the Portal	:	15.09.23 at 10.00 A.M. to 26.09.23 upto 3.00 P.M.		
Last Date/Time for Receipt	:	26.09.23 upto 3.00 P.M.		

Ganjam, Berhampur Further details can be seen tendersodisha.gov.in/nicgep/app

Superintending Engineer,

Rural Works Division-II,

Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division-II, Ganjam, Berhampur

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS DIVISION, KUCHINDA

E-mail:- eerw_kuchinda@yahoo.com "e" Procurement Notice for Road & Building Works

Identification No. Online Tender/03/RWD, Kuchinda/2023-24 No. O-946:-

Name of the Work

Total Number of Works Class of Contractor

OIPR-25151/11/0002/2324

of Bids in the Portal

Officer Inviting Bid

Name and address of the

Road & Building Works 08 Nos. Road & Building Works (C & D Class

Period of Completion Availability of Tender

of Contractor) 02 and 01 Calendar month Dt.11.09.2023 to 20.09.2023

online for bidding seeking tender clarification

: Dt.19.09.2023 at 5.00 A.M.

Date & time of opening of : Dt.21.09.2023 at 11.00 A.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd./- Superintending Engineer Rural Works Division, Kuchinda

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DEOGARH (R&B) DIVISION, DEOGARH **INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)** E-mail ID:eepwddeogarh@gmail.com

Letter No.3554

No.B-863: Invitation for Bids

Bid Identification No. EE PWD DGR No. 10 of 2023-24 The Executive Engineer, Deogarh (R&B) Division, Deogarh, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in single/

double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for Construction of Building works as detailed belo Nature of work Building works

Rs.6,000/-&10,000/ Bid Cost Class of Contractor From dt. 12.09.2023 to 17:00 hours Availability of Bid Documents in the website Date of Opening of The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further

details can be seen from the website: http://www.tendersorissa.gov

in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only. Sd./- Executive Engineer Deogarh (R&B) Division

OIPR-34061/11/0006/2324



GLARING LOOPHOLES: Workers carrying out repair work Monday on the newly-constructed flyover in Sambalpur barely a year after its completion OPPHOTO

OTA GOLD FOR ODISHA YOUTH

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Berhampur, Sept 11: A 23year-old youth belonging to this town has been awarded the gold medal during the passing out ceremony at the Officers Training Academy (OTA). Incidentally, OTA is one of the training institutes of the Indian Army in Chennai.

Sudeep Kumar Sahu of Rama Krushna Nagar locality was awarded the medal Saturday after completing the rigorous 11-month training at the academy.

Chief of the Army Staff, General Manoj Pande presented the gold medal to Sahu, who will join as a lieutenant in the Special Forces of the Indian Army.

"I will try to strictly adhere to the core values of selfless service to the nation after joining the Indian Army," Sahu, the son of an ex-serviceman, said Monday. He said that he will try his very best to deliver what is expected of him. As of now neighbours are celebrating his achievement.

Renovation of Golebazar market on

COMPLETED WITH THE CONSTRUCTION **OF 25 SHOPS**

POST NEWS NETWORK

Sambalpur, Sept 11: The first phase of work to convert the century-old Golebazar market, which is a prominent landmark in this city, into a multi-storey shopping mall has already been completed, officials informed Monday. A total of 25 shops have already been constructed in the first phase, officials of the Sambalpur Municipal Corporation (SMC) stated.

SMC commissioner, Vedbhusan said Monday that out of the 25 shops completed, 24 will be allocated to existing traders while the remaining one will be kept as a store room.

"The 24 shops earmarked for the shopkeepers will become operational very soon. Discussions have already started so that the owners shift to the new shops as soon as possible,"



Vedbhusan informed.

Official sources said that work is on in phases to convert Golebazar market into a modern mall. Initially work on the ground floor has been completed. Very soon work will start to set up the remaining three storeys. Like the first phase, the remaining work will also be undertaken under corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities of various industrial houses operating in Sambalpur district.

Currently there are around 180 shops in the Golebazar market area. Also 200 vegetable vendors operate in the market which

is spread over 1.5 acres of land Officials said that all the traders who operate in the market will be rehabilitated once the entire structure is completed.

established by Sambalpur 'Golebazar' because of its cir-

The Golebazar market was

Municipality in 1903. The market was initially named after British King Edward VIII. Later on, it got its present day name cular structure. The bustling market has become a part and parcel of residents of this town as it provides everything under one roof. It is a one stop destination for all and sundry.

Rourkela to get unique railway coach restaurant

POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Sept 11: Rourkela will be the third town in India after Nagpur in Maharashtra and New Jalpaiguri in West Bengal to have a railway coach restaurant. It is expected that the railway coach restaurant will be functional in October before the Durga Puja, as per information provided by the manager of the Rourkela station, Prabhat Das.

"The restaurant is being set up by 'Priyanka Parcel Services' of Kolkata. As per officials of 'Priyanka Parcel', the restaurant initially was to start functioning from August. However, due to some unforeseen circumstances,



the launching of the restaurant got delayed. However, it will be launched in October before Durga

Puja," Das informed. The restaurant will be set up near Gate No. 2 of the Rourkela railway station. This gate, on the northern side of the station, has been built recently. "The restaurant will be open for the public and also passengers,' informed Das.

The decision to set up the railway coach restaurant near Gate No. 2 was taken as a large number of hotels and eating joints exist close to Gate No. 1.

Satya Das, a regular commuter was very happy when he heard that the station is going to have this unique type of restaurant. "This will immensely benefit a person like me. Passengers like us are always on the lookout for quality food. I am hopeful that the

standard of food will be as per

IRCTC norms and the prices will

It should also be stated that the railway station here is all set for a modern facelift at a cost of ₹400 crore. General manager of South Eastern Railways, Anil Kumar Mishra during a recent visit here had informed that Rourkela station would undergo a complete transformation and get a new look. He had told the media that a detailed plan has been prepared for the modernisation of the station. It would

also be affordable," Satya stated.

Board for approval. Sources also informed that the newly-constructed platforms, Nos. 6 and 7, would be formally inaugurated before the Durga Puja this year.

soon be sent to the Railways



One of the chief obstacles to the establishment of a progressive harmony is our eagerness to prove to an opponent that he is

THE MOTHER



Small Sample Study

he results of the recently held bypolls in seven Assembly segments in six states across north, south and eastern parts of the country, in a way, foreshadow the shape of things to come. In the next Lok Sabha polls in 2024 the ruling BJP will be pitted against an alliance of 26 Opposition parties which have come under the umbrella of Indian National Development Inclusive Alliance (I.N.D.I.A). The BJP is trailing behind the Opposition combine bagging three of the seven seats and conceding defeat to the INDIA bloc in four. Though no distinct pattern of voters' preferences or pronounced swing in favour of the Opposition is noticeable, the signs are rather ominous for the BJP which has lost a seat in its citadel of UP to a Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate backed by the constituents of the INDIA. This is all the more significant, since it could offer two lessons to the Opposition combine. The first lesson is INDIA can trounce the BJP even in its much touted bastion if they put up a single common candidate in each seat. The second lesson is it needs to sink inner differences which, otherwise, would give wrong signals to the electorate.

In Ghosi in Uttar Pradesh, the BJP's Dara Singh Chauhan lost the election to the SP candidate. Chauhan's defeat has brought to fore a fatal flaw in the organisational and electoral strategy of the BJP being followed for the past few years. This became glaringly apparent in the last Assembly elections in West Bengal. But, the UP bypoll result shows the strategy may backfire elsewhere in the coming Lok Sabha poll as well. The BJP has in recent times mastered the art of engineering defections in Opposition ranks and forming governments with the help of splintered groups from other parties. The tactic of relying on factional leaders from the Opposition parties and their support base to form governments is fraught with risks. Notably the BJP, inspite of all the brave talk, has not been able to build its party organisations across the country that would bring it electoral dividends. That may be because the anti minority and Hindutva ideas of the saffron party may not get the kind of blanket instant support it has received in some parts of the Hindi speaking belt in north India. The BJP seems to have officially adopted the strategy of exploiting fissures and differences in Opposition parties to swell its own ranks and stake claims to governments with breakaway, disgruntled elements. That such a policy may boomerang on the party became evident when splintered groups and dissidents in the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, who had been admitted to the BJP fold with open arms, were subsequently defeated because people in general are becoming averse to turncoats. Many of them even returned to their mother party.

The BJP candidate of Ghosi in UP was the sitting SP MLA who crossed over to the saffron party and sought re-election as a BJP MLA. It is not yet clear whether the voters in the constituency decided to punish him for the betrayal or whether it was the Opposition unity that led to his defeat. But, what is even more disconcerting for the BJP is that the results show it may be defeated if Opposition parties, banded together under the INDIA banner, put up a common candidate against it. The SP candidate was supported by the Congress, the CPI(M) and the CPI(ML)-Liberation in the state. Uttar Pradesh is critical for the BJP's fortunes in 2024. The Ghosi byelection attracted national attention since SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath both were observed as having campaigned hard. This bypoll was also a test for the BJP's efforts to reinforce its multi-caste Hindoo coalition. But, in the end the voters seem to have rejected it.

The BJP retained a seat in Uttarakhand, while it lost a sitting seat in West Bengal to the ruling Trinamool Congress. The ruling Jharkhand Mukti Morcha retained Dumri in Jharkhand.

Dhupguri in West Bengal witnessed a combination of INDIA bloc parties facing off against another constituent, while Puthuppally in Kerala had the parties in the combination fighting each other. In Boxanagar in Tripura the CPI-M lost for the first time since 1988 to the BJP. The BJP also retained Dhanpur in that state. The CPI(M) has alleged electoral malpractices and violence by the ruling BJP in Tripura.

The Congress is drawing comfort from the victory of four INDIA bloc candidates in the bypolls. It may also be justified, to some extent, to believe that the people have accepted the Opposition alliance as an alter-

It is rather too early for the Opposition to draw any hasty conclusion. As a sample study, the data gained from the voters' preferences in the seven seats are too inadequate. At best, the results point to positive possibilities. Real clincher would be if every single constituent of the 26 member INDIA bloc decides to sacrifice seats, if required, to attain the ultimate goal of dislodging the BJP. If the seat sharing exercise can be handled smoothly, there is a distinct opportunity for success as the average voter is tired of only rhetoric and showmanship but no real tangible development taking off the ground while prices of all essential items are shooting through the roof.

WISDOM CORNER

If you are depressed you are living in the past. If you are anxious you are living in the future. If you are at peace you are living in the

There are two different types of people in the world, those who want

Your whole idea about yourself is borrowed - borrowed from those

who have no idea of who they are themselves.

WORDS**WORTH**

Nescient

his is a most useful word, meaning ignorant or unknowing. It's unknown to most people, with which you may bait your opponents: if they don't know the word, then their ignorance is doubly obvious. It's rare, though it appears in Ulysses by James Joyce, in which he speaks of "the lethargy of nescient matter". The noun, nescience, is somewhat more common; G K Chesterton used it in The Innocence of Father Brown: "Flambeau had been missed at Harwich: and if he was in London at all, he might be anything from a tall tramp on Wimbledon Common to a tall toast-master at the Hotel Metropole. In such a naked state of nescience, Valentin had a view and a method of his own". Nescient comes from Latin nescire, to be ignorant, from scire, to know. This is the same Latin stem that bequeathed us nice, a word which has gone through more shifts of sense than almost any other, but which started out meaning "foolish" or "stupid".

■ New Puritans

We're hardly short of names with new on the front. They're intended to suggest that an old idea has been revitalised, often alas only to the extent of putting new wine in old bottles. In recent decades we've had the New Age, the New Romantics, New Men, the New World Order, and the British New Lads and New Labour. And in only one sense is New Puritans a new tag, since there have been new puritans for decades, with or without capitalisation, for example as the name for a sexual backlash to AIDS in the USA in the eighties. But these British New Puritans are newer than any other new puritans. It's the name for an artistic movement founded by Nicholas Blincoe and Matt Thorne, whose founding philosophy appeared in an anthology last autumn, called with what you may feel is a touch of hubris - All Hail the New Puritans. The rules were made explicit in a ten-point manifesto: writers must be dedicated to narrative, eschew poetic licence, aim at clarity, and have a moral purpose. In other words — or at least the words of Nicholas Blincoe — New Puritan fiction is fiction in "its purest and most immediate form".

FOCUS CULTURE

BOLD NEW PATH



Jagdish Rattanani

THE MOVIE PUTS **EVERYONE ON NOTICE AND OPENS NEW IMAGINATIONS POSSIBILITIES OF WHAT BOLLYWOOD CAN DO WHEN IT WADES INTO HOT POLITICAL SPACES**

hah Rukh Khan, also known as King Khan or SRK, is raking it in at the box office with 'Jawan'. The movie opened last week and reportedly netted over Rs 350 crore by the weekend, said to be the biggest opening ever on record for a Hindi movie. A career that some thought was in decline is back with a big bang. The SRK magic works this time with co-star Nayanthara, noted for her work across the southern states, and Tamil cinema stars like Vijay Sethupathi and the director Atlee Kumar, combining talent across the north and south into a package that appears to have been lapped up by the national audience.

Needless to say, a lot of it is typical Bollywood hyperbole. But the "wrongs in society" it highlights are very real, making 'Jawan' a bold venture with distinct political overtones that many would see as high risk in this particular political atmosphere, further heated by the upcoming elections. That the movie highlights the death of patients due to lack of oxygen cylinders in a public hospital, the farmer suicides, bad deals for substandard equipment that fail our soldiers, the factories that pollute our water and air, or protection of select businessmen wheeler-dealers, is as real or as specific as it can get today.

In that, the movie goes beyond the general tirade against the ills of society, pictured usually in stereotypes of the rogue middleman, the corrupt politician, or the woes of everyday people as they struggle to get their due. 'Jawan' still has a lot of common nouns, of course, but proper nouns are in the air. In that sense, SRK and team have unhesitatingly opened real issues meshed within unreal drama, using escapist masala to serve burning political questions that many can see, many more can sense but few from Bollywood



The 'wrongs in society' it highlights are very real, making 'Jawan' a bold venture with distinct political overtones that many would see as high risk in this particular political atmosphere, further heated by the upcoming elections

will dare ask in today's political

It used to be the theory long ago that Bollywood works because vacuous song-and-dance was the one release from the misery of everyday living for millions. This changed over the decades, from the early romance stories and the rich-poor commentary to the angry-youngman, bolder romances, and then post-liberalisation with the arrival of low-cost productions that experimented with new themes. The changing times brought more modern-day issues to the big screen, like livein relationships, LGBTQ+ rights and alliances, caste conflicts, "encounter" killings, the ruralurban divide, autism, loneliness, mental health. Many of the films over the years have had political messages and, in that sense, Bollywood was always political but in an indirect sort-of way. It played mostly in safe territory – not many looked the establishment in the eye and spoke up with gusto.

This is a place known after all for song and dance, where the watchwords are entertainment and glamour. The industry prefers a winning formula to creative exploration, particularly in big-budget films populated by rocking stars with fancy fees. Will that change from hereon with the success of 'Jawan'? We have on offer a new path for Bollywood, a path that can use its huge and unrivalled soft power to drive home some significant messages of the kind and in a way it has rarely attempted in a big-budget extravaganza. In that sense, the movie puts everyone on notice and opens new imaginations and possibilities of what Bollywood can do when it wades into hot political spaces.

One highlight of the movie is a speech that shows SRK asking citizens to pick who they will vote for after raising the right question: What will you, dear candidate, do for us, in the next five years? If someone in the family takes ill, what will you do for their treatment? What will you do to get me a job?

The message is to demand performance and delivery of service in areas of health, education, jobs, and not fall for distraction in the name of religion, race or caste. But these are exactly the questions and issues that are not in focus in the India of today, and posing them in a successful masala format gets them further to the masses than any medium possibly can

The delivery comes against a backdrop of electronic voting machines, framing the messages in the very live context of the 2024 elections

None of this is sophisticated delivery, or a critical examination of the complex political issues of our times. It is a baseline delivery but its significance is that it was delivered, and its success is in its wide reach, its slick package and its big questions. In that it quite ironically matches the unsophisticated approach of those who have twisted the national agenda, changed the political discourse and now those who have come out with desperate calls to boy cott the movie by drawing all kinds of connections - from the current controversy over remarks on Sanatana Dharma to Shah Rukh Khan's recent visit to the Tirupati temple.

The Hindi film industry is one place where the key currency is the quality of work and acceptance by the audience, never mind all that has been said in the name of the late Sushant Singh Rajput, Hindus, Muslims and all other faiths work here hard, and hand-inhand, to take audiences into a dream world. It's an efficient business machine that challenges you to prove yourself every day, however well you are connected. The trick to make money and enjoy the ride is to challenge yourself, not challenge the political establishment. SRK's 'Jawan' has just expanded that space to speak up. The effort deserves to be protected and nurtured and allowed to grow. The success of the movie is therefore good news, but it remains to be seen what will follow and how Bollywood can or will embrace this new road.

The writer is a journalist and faculty member at SPJIMR. Views are personal.

SPECTRUM SUSTAINABILITY

Aiding climate-vulnerable countries



Ken Ofori-Atta & Axel van Trotsenburg

IN THE FACE OF THE GREATEST CHALLENGE **TO HUMAN** SURVIVABILITY, **WE RISK GETTING** TRAPPED, LIKE SISYPHUS, IN A CYCLE OF FUTILE, **INCREMENTAL ACTIONS**

emergency and a global debt crisis, calls for a new "fit for climate" global financial architecture are growing louder throughout the developing world. The urgent need for decisive action has been underscored by Barbadian Prime Minister Mia Mottley's Bridgetown Initiative, the V20 group of climate-vulnerable countries, and the recent Paris Summit for a New Global Financing Pact. Last week's Africa Climate Summit in Nairobi presented a unique opportunity to promote muchneeded measures to support lowincome countries in pursuing sustainable growth.

The situation is particularly urgent in Africa. According to recent estimates by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the continent requires \$2.8 trillion in climate financing between 2020 and 2030. But Africa currently receives only 3% of global climate finance, of which just 14% comes from the private sector. It is worth noting that the continent accounts for 3.8% of global greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions, while the Global North is responsible for 90%

But even though the world's most vulnerable countries are bearing the brunt of a crisis they did not create, developmentrelated climate financing has

mid an escalating climate actually decreased, as has overall development aid to Africa. Preliminary 2022 figures show that flows of bilateral official development assistance (ODA) from OECD Development Assistance Committee members to Africa totaled \$34 billion last vear, a decline of 7.4% in real terms compared to 2021. Meanwhile, total private market assets under management surged to \$11.7 trillion in 2022, having increased at an annual rate of nearly 20% since 2017.

Given the severity and urgency of the climate crisis, the international community must rally to devise and agree on concrete solutions ahead of November's COP28 in Dubai. To build resilience against inevitable climate shocks, we must fully fund the "loss and damage" fund global leaders agreed to establish at last year's COP27 in Egypt, agree to double funding for adaptation efforts, and apply the "polluter pays" principle to maritime activities.

To reduce GHG emissions and mitigate the worst effects of climate change will require mobilising financial resources on an unprecedented scale. But the proposals currently circulating among global policymakers lack focus. In the face of the greatest challenge to human survivability, we risk getting trapped, like

Sisyphus, in a cycle of futile, incremental actions. In the lead-up to COP28, we must focus on a few essential steps that could spur global climate action and help limit global warming to the internationally agreed target of 1.5° Celsius.

First, we must tackle Africa's debt problem. The international community must support vulnerable developing countries grappling with debt crises and enable them to invest in climate adaptation, resilience, and sustainable development. To achieve debt sustainability, developing countries must diversify their economies, negotiate debt-restructuring deals, and ensure transparent and accountable governance

Second, ongoing efforts to reform the system of multilateral development banks, including the World Bank's "Evolution Roadmap" initiative, could enable MDBs to assist developing countries at speed and scale necessary to meet global development goals and address challenges such as climate change, energy access, and pandemic preparedness.

Third, significant investments should be redirected toward the green transition, with a particular focus on expanding climatevulnerable countries' access to renewable energy. To this end, African governments could initiate regional programmes to harness their natural resources to produce clean energy. Lastly, the International

Development Association, the World Bank's soft-loan facility. has emerged as a crucial tool capable of delivering the level of support Africa requires. Apart from being familiar to and trusted by governments across the continent, the IDA effectively amplifies donor contributions, a particularly valuable feature at a time when donor countries are fiscally con-

Despite the massive challenges ahead, establishing a new climate-ready global financial architecture remains feasible. By working together and ensuring that all countries pay their fair share, the international community could bridge political divides and achieve tangible progress toward ensuring a habitable world. But to do this, we must maintain the current momentum until we reach our goal: enabling climate-vulnerable countries to achieve sustainable, resilient growth.

> Ken Ofori-Atta is Chair of the V20. Axel van Trotsenburg is Senior Managing Director at the World Bank.

Diplomatic victory

and Europe.

Sir, In a landmark achievement for Indian diplomacy, the Delhi Declaration emerged as a powerful testament to global unity and cooperation. This declaration, signed with unanimous consent at the G20 summit, holds immense significance in today's complex geopolitical landscape. The world has been grappling with deep divisions concerning critical issues such as the Ukraine conflict and the use of fossil fuels. Additionally, the financial power of nations has been weaponised, leading to the imposition of draconian sanctions and breaches of international law. Global supply chains have been disrupted, and India has been dealing with its own border challenges with China. Amidst this backdrop, the Delhi Declaration's 100 per cent consensus marks a major diplomatic victory for India. One of the most remarkable aspects of this declaration is its ability to convince the Western world to address the war in Ukraine without directly mentioning Russia. This delicate balance in language is a significant achievement, showcasing India's diplomatic prowess on the global stage. Furthermore, the India-Middle East-Europe corridor outlined in the declaration promises to revolutionise trade between India

Bishal Kumar Saha, MURSHIDABAD

Green energy leap

Sir, People all around the world are talking about green hydrogen because it's a clean form of energy, and it's going to become even more popular. In a great partnership, NTPC and the VO Chidambaranar Port Authority are working together to create a green hydrogen hub in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu. This cooperative initiative is geared towards generating green hydrogen, green ammonia, and green methanol, all on the land generously provided by VOCPA. NTPC, India's top power utility with over 73 GW capacity, is expanding into renewables with NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL). Their focus is on renewable energy parks, green hydrogen, energy storage, and continuous renewable power. NTPC aims for 60 GW of renewable capacity by 2032, with a pipeline exceeding 20 GW. This collaboration indeed represents a significant step towards sustainable energy production in India, aligning with global endeavors to curb carbon emissions in vital industries.

Krishna Kumar Vepakomma, HYDERABAD

etters

TO THE EDITOR Readers of Orissa POST

are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com

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TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 12 | 2023 | BHUBANESWAR

Himanta eyes consolidation of Hindu votes Stalin's attendance at G20 dinner sparks debate in TN them. "If the Yuvraj (Rahul Gandhi) uses Bharat name then INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE has openly

Guwahati, Sept 11: Soon after the opposition parties formed the INDIA bloc to take on the BJP, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was the first man to start cheering for the 'Bharat' name. He changed his bio on X (formerly Twitter) and added 'Bharat' in place of India in the country name.

Since then, Sarma has been consistently pushing for Bharat and asserted that the Reserve Bank of India should also be renamed. "Reserve Bank of Bharat should be the name of the central bank in stead of Reserve Bank of India. This is a renaissance era. Many changes have been implemented in the Centre as well as in Assam," he had said.

The Chief Minister further claimed that numerous Britishimposed customs still exist in the nation and that they must be changed. "Whether it is India or Bharat, I don't think this is disputed. The Supreme Court has previously declared that the names India and Bharat can be used interchangeably. No one objected when Amit Shah introduced the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita legislation in

Arguing on 'Bharat', he

announced that he does not need Muslim votes. In Assam, which has more than 30 per cent of Muslim votes, Sarma wants to convert the state politics into a binary

ince he joined the BJP after quitting Congress in 2015, Sarma has been seen to promote Hindutva politics more than any other prominent leaders of the saffron party

Manmohan Singh had earlier taken oath as Prime Minister of Bharat. The Assam Chief Minister said: "Manmohan Singh had taken the oath as the prime minister of Bharat, while HD Deve Gowda took as Prime Minister of India. So far I remember, Indira Gandhi also took the oath as Bharat ka Pradhan Mantri, not as a

Prime Minister of India." He asserted that the term 'India" and customs from the British era are "colonial hangovers" and that the nation is about to enter a "phase of renaissance" during which they will be abandoned. "People have been waiting for one Modi hangover for 75 years," the Chief Minister said.

He continued, seemingly re ferring to the use of the term India and carrying on with colonial practices, "How can Modi ji be blamed for something done by (Jawaharlal)

The Chief Minister also attacked Rahul Gandhi in 'India vs Bharat' debate and said: "He did a Bharat Jodo yatra and Congress leaders then had no issues with it. I think the Congressmen should first ask Rahul why he did a Bharat Jodo instead of India Jodo Yatra."

The BJP leader moreover said that Congress takes the

it's ok with the grand old party leaders. When we call it Bharat, then Congressmen jumped into the criticism which is very strange," Sarma mentioned.

Since he joined the BJP after quitting Congress in 2015, Sarma has been seen to promote Hindutva politics more than any other prominent leaders of the saffron party. In the last two years, he has taken a series of decisions in Assam -- shutting down of madrasas, eviction drive in Muslim populated places, cracking down on child marriages, recent delimitation exercise -- almost all were called as anti-Muslim steps by the opposition.

The Chief Minister has openly announced that he does not need Muslim votes. In Assam, which has more than 30 per cent of Muslim votes, Sarma wants to convert the state politics into a binary. He intends to consolidate Hindu votes to the BJP with large scale polarisation and Muslim votes may be divided between the Congress and Badruddin Ajmal's All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) party. At this juncture, Sarma's cheerleading for the Bharat name is another attempt to woo the Hindu voters in Assam.

OF THE VIEW THAT THE CHIEF MINISTER HAS ATTENDED AN INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATIC MEET AND THE PARTICIPATION WAS DUE TO

ADMINISTRATIVE AND OFFICIAL REASONS

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 11: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin was the only Chief Minister from South India to attend the G20 dinner in New Delhi hosted by the President of India. Stalin shared pictures of his meeting with US President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his social media accounts.

This has sparked a debate with social media flooded with pro and anti comments. While the DMK has said that it was an official meeting for administrative reasons, several people have criticized Stalin for attending the meeting as at the ground level the DMK is in a major confrontation with the BJP-ruled government at the Centre.

R. Raghunath, a Left social activist said, "The Chief Minister attending the G20 dinner was uncalled for. He should have abstained from this like the Kerala

Chief Minister and Karnataka Chief Minister. The message that is given to the people of Tamil Nadu on this will not be good and the DMK will have to

give a lot of explanation. However many supporters of Stalin are of the view that the Chief Minister has attended an international diplomatic meet and the participation was due to

administrative and official reasons. Shenthilnathan, a DMK leader

from Chennai said, "The Chief Minister has attended the meeting as it is one with a lot of international participation. Tamil Nadu is a progressive state and we have to showcase our state properly."The Chief Minister has been the topmost critic of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a political level but at an administrative level he has to participate in an international meet that has a galaxy of participants, including the President of the US, Joe Biden.'



Pallikaranai wetland may lose Ramsar status due to pollution

The Ramsar Convention can act on its own to blacklist Pallikaranai if the garbage dumping and sewage discharge cannot be controlled

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Chennai, Sept 11: The Pallikaranai marshland which has been recognised as a Ramsar site in 2022 is in the league of losing the status due to pollution in the marshland.

The wetland is polluted with sewage discharge and dumping of garbage from the nearby Perungudi garbage dump vard. If the government and the concerned environment and forest not act, the site may lead to International black list, Montreux Record.

The Ramsar Convention can act on its own to blacklist Pallikaranai if the garbage dumping and sewage discharge cannot be controlled. Notably, Pallikaranai marshland was spread across 5,500 hectares in 1965 and is now at a meagre 500 hectares or rather the marshland has shrunk to this situa-

The Perungudi dumpyard has taken up a large area of the Pallikaranai marshland in addition to the encroachments by government bodies like National Institute of Ocean Technology and Centre for Wind Energy Technology. Several private parks and residential complexes have also eaten up the area of the marshland.

Leachate dumpyard enters the marshland leading to its pollution. It may be



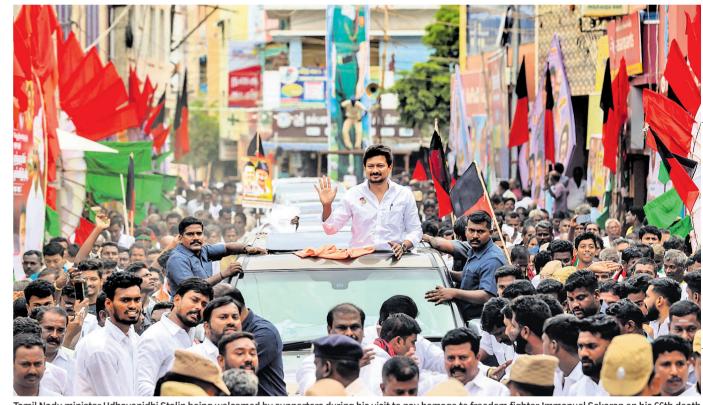
2021, set up a pilot system to treat the leachate before it enters the marshland however funding for the project was stopped by the government and hence the project is stalled now.

Environmentalists and social activists have called for setting up Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) to treat the water that enters the marshland from lakes

According to reports, water from the lakes of Pallavaram, Velachery, Nanmangalam, Sithalapakkam, Perumbakkam, Agaramthen Okkiyampakkam enters the Pallikaranai marshland. It is to be noted that in many places sewage is let into freshwater drains which leads to lakes and polluting marshland.

C. Rajeev, Director, Centre for Policy and Development Studies, a think tank based out of Chennai said, "The Underground sewage infrastructure must be tracked at a fast pace and every drop of water must be treated in STP before it enters the marshland."

Meanwhile, sources in the Tamil Nadu State Wetland Authority (TNSWA) said that the department has conducted a study using drones to mark the inner land use of marshland but the study reports have not yet been made public. It is to be noted that there are 190 species of birds in Pallikaranai marshland of which 72 are mi-



Tamil Nadu minister Udhayanidhi Stalin being welcomed by supporters during his visit to pay homage to freedom fighter Immanuel Sekaran on his 66th death anniversary, at Paramakudi in Ramanathapuram district, Tamil Nadu

3,907 held in child marriage cases in 5 yrs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 11: Altogether 3,907 people have been arrested in Assam in cases relating to child marriage in the past five years, the state Assembly was informed Monday.

Out of them, 3,319 are facing charges under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said,

while replying to a question by Congress MLA Debabrata Saikia. The court has so far convicted 62 people in such cases, he added.

The state government had launched a drive against child marriage in February this year and it was kept on hold now. Sarma, who also holds the Home portfolio, said that 316 corruption-related cases have been registered under Assam Police in the last five years.

Of these, 91 cases are with the CID, 198 with the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption wing, and 27 with the Chief Minister's Special Vigilance Cell. As many as 479 people have been arrested in connection with these

The chief minister also said that 491 suspected land brokers have been arrested and cases against them are going on in courts. Replying to a sepaber Abdur Rashid Mandal, Sarma said that during the tenure of his government, 390 people have been arrested for association or linkage with anti-national or extremist activities.

Sarma took oath as the chief minister in May 2021. In cattle smuggling cases, 2,942 arrests have been made and 27,858 cattle heads seized since then.

Mega drive to increase green cover: Assam CM

saplings are

will help boost the

local economy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 11: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the ongoing mega tree plantation drive in the state will help increase green cover and boost the local econ-He also said the

'Amrit Brikshya Andolan', which will witness the plantation one crore saplings across the

state this year will undertake HIMANTA BISWA SARMA planting three

seedlings next year. Talking to reporters at a sapling distribution venue here, Sarma said the drive will be expanded in -2024 and three crore saplings will be planted.

"As saplings are being planted



in non-forest areas, it will help increase green cover. Also, we are distributbeing planted in ing saplings of trees non-forest areas, it will with commercial value help increase green cover. and this will help Also, we are distributing boost the local econsaplings of trees with

omv." he said. Sarma commercial value and this said attempts to create nine world records during the mega plantation exercise are also on the right track.

A 22-km line made with 3.5lakh saplings was launched here Saturday at the first event for creating a Guinness World Record for tree plantation by Assam Environment and Forest Minister Chandramohan

Postgraduate course to develop quality HR in tea industry

THE NORTH EASTERN TEA ASSOCIATION (NETA) IN COLLABORATION WITH GOLAGHAT COMMERCE COLLEGE HAD STARTED THE ONE-YEAR 'POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN TEA PLANTATION MANAGEMENT (PGDTPM)' IN 2016, AND SINCE THEN, SEVEN BATCHES HAVE PASSED OUT WITH ALMOST 100 PER CENT PLACEMENT. AN OFFICIAL SAID

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Guwahati, Sept 11: In a bid to ensure quality human resources in Assam's 200-year-old tea industry, a postgraduate course has been imparting practical training in the gardens coupled with wide-ranging theoretical knowledge of plantation and management.

The North Eastern Tea Association (NETA) in collaboration with Golaghat Commerce College had started the one-year 'Post Graduate Diploma in Tea Plantation Management (PGDTPM)' in 2016, and since then, seven batches have passed out with almost 100 per cent placement, an official said.

"We decided to initiate the course to impart training to aspiring local youths desirous of working in the industry. Initially, we were not sure about how it will evolve, but the journey has



been inspiring with cent per cent placement, and even a foreign student from Zambia joining the course this year," NETA chairman (CSR Committee) Sunil Jallan said.

Trained human resources are key for the survival and growth of an industry and "we decided

that youths desiring to join the tea industry must have the necessary knowledge required", NETA Advisor Bidyananda Barkakoty said.

"The syllabus has been created by a team of industry and academia. It is focused on the industry and there are both the-

ory and practical classes in the field (factory and plantation),' he said. Barkakoty pointed out that this course was the "first of its kind" in industry-academia collaboration in the field of tea education.

NETA members produce over 150 million kg of tea annually, and students get the opportunity to do their internship in the factories and gardens owned by the members of the association, he said. "The tea gardens of NETA members are an extended campus and provides support to students for field, factory visits and practical training on all aspects of tea production," Course Coordinator Rajesh Jasiwal said.

Most of the students have so far been absorbed in tea gardens owned by NETA members, while few others have also joined tea marketing companies, Jaiswal said. A new batch of students enrolled for the course recently and among them is Tiza Banda from Zambia, and "we expect many more international students to join in the years to come", Jallan said.

Banda said she decided to come here to learn about tea crop management from experts. "Having searched online, I found this place safe and friendly and rich in knowledge on tea cultivation. I expect this course to equip me with vast knowledge and skill in tea plantation management, including cultivation, factory and labour management, she said.

Mahesh Baraik, who belongs to the tea tribe community and has grown up in the gardens, said he had enrolled for the course to gain a proper scientific knowledge of tea production.

Baraik joined the Jutlibari Tea Estate as an assistant manager after successfully acquiring his diploma.







The Frecce Tricolori (Tricolor Arrows) aerobatic squad of the Italian Air Force fly over Milan, Italy, to celebrate the Air Force 100th anniversary



School children and residents walk through a flooded road at Netaji colony after heavy downpour in Dimapur, Nagaland



Devotees carry holy water from the Tapi river to perform 'abhishek' at Sidhhkutir Mahadev temple on the occasion of the last Monday of Nija Sawan month in Surat, Gujarat



Prime Minister of the Netherlands Mark Rutte visits the Church Street in Bangalore, Karnataka



In this screen grab from webcam video provided by the US Geological Survey, Kilauea, one of the most active volcanoes in the world, erupts in Hawaii



Maratha activists shout slogans during a protest demanding reservation in Thane, Maharashtra



Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur during BJP's 'Jan Ashirwad Yatra', in Seoni district, Madhya Pradesh

national

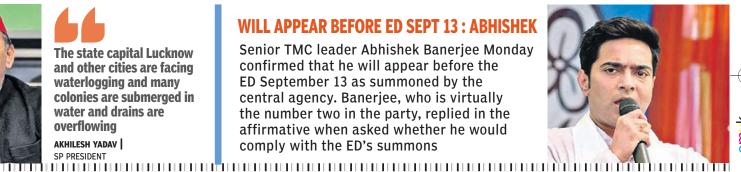


The state capital Lucknow and other cities are facing waterlogging and many colonies are submerged in water and drains are overflowing

AKHILESH YADAV SP PRESIDENT

WILL APPEAR BEFORE ED SEPT 13: ABHISHEK

Senior TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee Monday confirmed that he will appear before the ED September 13 as summoned by the central agency. Banerjee, who is virtually the number two in the party, replied in the affirmative when asked whether he would comply with the ED's summons





witnessing the results of the government's perseverance in just a decade time

K CHANDRASHEKAR RAO TELANGANA CM

I appeal to the public to give priority to the cleanliness of the surroundings of the house. Beware about mosquito bites. Do



Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the G20 Summit successfully

concluded today and has moved forward strongly towards achieving its targeted objectives. This summit will prove to be a milestone in the realisation of the spirit of 'One Farth, One Family, One Future'

YOGI ADITYANATH UTTAR PRADESH CM

SHORT **TAKES**

1 killed in clash over social media post

Pune: One person was killed and seven to eight others suffered injuries when members of two communities clashed at a village in Maharashtra's Satara district following an "objectionable" post on social media, police said Monday. The incident, which took place at Pusesawali village in Khatao tehsil on Sunday night, led to tension between the two communities, prompting the police administration to suspend Internet services in the district as a precautionary measure, they said. Some houses were also damaged in the incident, as per a senior district administration official.

Delhi renews firecracker ban

New Delhi: India's New Delhi has reimposed a ban on firecrackers ahead of the pollution in the winter, when air quality reaches hazardous levels, the capital city's environment minister said Monday. "Manufacturing, storage, sale, online delivery and bursting of any type of firecrackers is completely prohibited in Delhi," Minister Gopal Rai said at a press conference.

Private transporters call off strike in B'lore

Bangalore: After assurance from Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy that most of their demands would be fulfilled, the Federation of the Karnataka State Private Transport Associations called off the day-long strike in the city Monday afternoon.



A SIGNIFICANT UPWARD TRAJECTORY IN THE LAST FEW YEARS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 11: India and Saudi Arabia Monday decided to expedite implementation of the \$ 50 billion West Coast refinery project, and identified energy, defence, semiconductor and space as areas for intensified cooperation during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

In his opening remarks at the first India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council meeting, Prime Minister Modi said the relationship between the two countries is crucial for regional and global stability.

In the talks, the two sides agreed to diversify the current status of their hydrocarbons relationship into a "comprehensive energy partnership" and inked eight pacts to boost cooperation in a range of areas including digitisation and investment.

Bin Salman was on a day-long State Visit to India following the end of the G20 Summit. Emphasising that terrorism, in all its forms, remains one of the "gravest threats" to humanity, the two sides agreed that there cannot be any justification for any act of terror for any reason what-

India, UK for

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

two countries.

early conclusion

of free trade pact

New Delhi, Sept 11: India and

the UK Monday expressed their

commitment to an early

conclusion of the free trade

agreement (FTA) between the

Addressing a joint press con-

ference with UK Chancellor of

Exchequer Jeremy Hunt, Finance

Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

said both sides intend to expedite

cussion on the FTA, especially

the investment aspects, which

comes under the finance min-

istry and the intention on both the sides to expedite the dis-

cussion so that some quick agree-

ment could lead to finally sign-

ing," she said at the conclusion

of the 12th India-UK Economic

So, the keenness on both sides

is to conclude the comprehensive

free trade agreement between

India and the UK as soon as

Talking about the meeting,

she said the deliberations en-

compassed collaborations to se-

cure inclusive growth and re-

silience, advancing climate action

and forging partnerships through

technology and infrastructure

partnership. The UK has ex-

pressed its willingness to fur-

ther expand its footprint in the

IFSC-Gujarat International

Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)

and foster robust Fintech part-

nership, the minister said.

and Financial Dialogue.

possible, she said.

'There is definitely some dis-

the free trade agreement.

soever. They rejected any attempt to link terrorism to any particular race, religion or culture and called on all States to reject the use of terrorism against other countries, dismantle terrorism infrastructure where it exists and bring perpetrators

A major focus of the talks was enhancing energy cooperation. At a media briefing, Sayeed said different areas of cooperation such as energy, defence, security, education, technology, transportation, healthcare, tourism and culture were iden-

of terrorism to justice swiftly.

leaders. The two sides also held deliberations on power grid, gas grid, optical grids and fibre networks for possible cooperation.

Prime Minister Modi and the

tified in the talks between the two

Saudi leader co-chaired the first meeting of the Strategic Partnership Council that was established in October 2019.

Saveed said both Prime Minister Modi and Crown Prince Bin Salman extended their "full support" to the early implementation of the West Coast refinery project for which funds to the tune of \$50 billion are already earmarked.

The West Coast Refinery proj ect is to come up in Maharashtra. The mega refinery-cum-petrochemicals complex project was first announced in 2015

The two sides also decided to have a monitoring committee to ensure that the refinery projects are done according to the plans laid out by both the sides. In the morning, Bin Salman was

The two sides also held deliberations on power grid, gas grid, optical grids and fibre networks for possible cooperation

Saudi said it is considering setting up an office of its sovereign wealth fund (SWF) in India to facilitate investments, as the two nations aim to double bilateral trade to \$100 billion in the coming years

Both sides also agreed to explore opportunities for cooperation in the area of payment systems including the acceptance of RuPAY card in Saudi Arabia for the benefit of the Indian community in general and more particularly the Hajj/Umrah pilgrims

accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

In the meeting, the two sides welcomed the launch of the India-Middle-East economic corridor. Speaking at an event here, Investment Minister of Saudi Arabia Khalid A Al Falih said that within the next few weeks, he would send a strong delegation to Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT), Gandhinagar, to explore the opportunity to open the office of SWF.



Police personnel detain Telugu Desam Party (TDP) workers protesting against the arrest of party chief N Chandrababu Naidu in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. The overall response to the statewide bandh was lukewarm Monday with business as usual in most parts of the state



People pass through a waterlogged street after heavy rains

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lucknow, Sept 11: Nineteen people were killed in the past 24 hours as rain lashed Uttar Pradesh, disrupting normal life, particularly in the state's central region and forcing schools in some places to shut for a day, authorities said Monday evening.

Roof collapses, cases of drowning and deaths due to lightning were reported in parts of the state. Some localities in the capital Lucknow faced waterlogging. In Barabanki, rail tracks were flooded.

Four deaths were reported from Hardoi, three from Barabanki, two each from Pratapgarh and Kannauj, and one each from Amethi, Deoria, Jalaun, Kanpur, Unnao, Sambhal, Rampur and Muzaffarnagar districts, it said.

In Kannauj, two brothers --Kallu (13) and Avnish (17) -- died after the thatched roof of their house in Lalkiyapur village in Tirwa area collapsed on Sunday following overnight rains, Naib Tehsildar (revenue official) Ratnesh Kumar said

In Muzaffarnagar district, Deepika (28) died after the roof of her house in Rahmatpur village in the Bhopa area collapsed last night, while her mother-inlaw sustained serious injuries, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Subodh Kumar told PTI Monday.

In Deoria, Divya Chauhan (9) drowned while taking a bath in a swollen rivulet in the district. police said Monday. In 22 districts of the state, there have

been over 40 mm rain in the last 24 hours including Moradahad. Sambhal, Kannauj, Rampur, Hathras, Barabanki, Kasganj, Bijnor, Amroha, Bahraich, Lucknow, Badaun, Mainpuri, Hardoi, Firozabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Kanpur, Sitapur Farrukhabad, Lakhimpur Kheri and Fatehpur.

Alleging corruption in the budget meant for 'smart cities', Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav Monday said waterlogging in Lucknow has exposed the blank promises of the BJP government.

According to the MET department forecast, heavy rains are likely in the eastern region till September 14 while light rains will continue till September 17, the official of the relief commissioner office said. The western region of the

state is also likely to get rains and showers till September 17, though there is an alert for lightning over the state till September 15. In Barabanki, the movement of trains was hit as water came

on the railway tracks. A passenger train was halted at the outer for some time but later the trains were allowed to pass at a very slow pace, a railway official said. Schools in the state capital re-

main closed on the order of the authorities

In Lucknow, District Magistrate__ Surya Pal Gangwar ordered the closure of schools and issued an advisory for the people not to venture out unnecessarily in view of the possibility of severe lightning.

Bypolls to 4 vacant LS seats unlikely: Sources

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: Bypolls to four vacant Lok Sabha seats. including Ghazipur in Uttar Pradesh, are unlikely to be held, sources said Monday.

The Election Commission and the Legislative Department in the Union Law Ministry are learnt to be in touch with each other on the issue, they said.

According to statutory provisions, the Legislative Department has to concur with the EC on delaying or not holding an election or a by-election.

The four vacant Lok Sabha seats are Chandrapur and Pune in Maharashtra, Ghazipur in

EC to visit poll-bound states by early October

The Election Commission would conclude its visits to five poll-bound states by early October following which it is likely to announce schedule of Assembly polls in these states, sources said Monday. While the Commission, comprising Chief Election Commissioner Raiiv Kumar and Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel, has already been to Chhattisgarh. Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram to assess poll preparedness, it would visit Raiasthan and Telangana in September-end and early October.

Uttar Pradesh and Ambala in Harvana. Electoral law stipulates that a bypoll has to be held within six months of a seat falling vacant. But the poll panel, based on certain facts, can decide either not to hold or postpone the electoral exercise. Sources aware of the dialogue between the EC and the ministry said that if the bypolls are held, the newly elected MPs will get very little time as public representatives as the next Lok Sabha polls will be announced early 2024.

In 2014 and 2019, Lok Sabha

polls were announced in March. There were some other legal positions based on which the EC

had recently approached the ministry seeking its concurrence for not holding the bypolls, the sources said.

While three Lok Sabha seats were vacated due to the demise of sitting members, one fell vacant due to the disqualification of a member following his conviction in a criminal case. Congress MP Suresh Dhanorkar Chandrapur from Maharashtra had died in May, while BJP member Girish Bapat (Pune) passed away in March. BSP MP from Ghazipur Afzal Ansari was disqualified in May.

Canadian PM stuck in India due to aircraft snag

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's departure from the national capital has been delayed due to technical issues in his aircraft and a ferry plane is expected to arrive Monday to fly him back, according to a source.

A ferry aircraft is expected to land at the Delhi airport at around 10 pm, the source in the know said Monday.

Specific details could not be ascertained. A query sent to the Canadian Prime Minister's office seeking comments about the ferry aircraft remained



Trudeau, who arrived in the national capital on Friday, was to return Sunday after the G20 Summit. However, his departure has been delayed due to technical issues in the aircraft.

Canada's CTV News reported that the prime minister and his delegation are stranded in Delhi due to a technical issue with the aircraft and that they are likely to depart Tuesday 🗦 morning.

"Upon our departure for the airport, we were made aware by the Canadian Armed Forces that CFC001 was experiencing technical issues," the channelquoted the statement from the prime minister's office as saying.

RELIGION AND POLITICS MAKE A DEAD

olitics is the science of domination for power and religion the art of salvation through subjugation. Taken together, the two make for an explosive, self-destructing mix.

Last week two divergent scenarios involving religion evolved in two different parts of the country. Both evoked an interesting reaction, and therein hangs a political tale of different strokes for different folks. The first one acquired form in

Guiarat, the second took shape in Tamil Nadu and the synthesis occurred in Delhi though politics emanating therefrom diverged. A controversy of sorts erupted within the enveloping folds of the

larger Hindu faith with the sadhus owing allegiance to 'sanatani' traditions ranged against those from the Swaminarayan sect. At the centre of the controversy was a mural at the Sarangpur temple depicting the deity Hanuman seeking the blessings of a Swaminarayan saint. A popular pilgrimage site, this temple is located about 150 kms from Ahmedabad at Gadhada in Botad district of Saurashtra region in Gujarat and comes under the Vadtal Swaminarayan sect.

After a video clip went viral around August 30, sanatani saints incensed at what they perceived was the subordination of a presiding deity of the faith served a timebound ultimatum seeking removal of the mural or face protest. The issue seemed set to snowball as numerous religious heads and spiritual front rankers waded into the controversy, the leading argument being that Lord hanuman existed thousands of years ago whereas was born

merely two to three centuries ago. The seismic tremors and its political implications set alarm bells ringing from Delhi to Gandhinagar and the might of the politico-religious machinery moved in unison to douse the flames before it turned



into an inferno. Swaminarayan Sect leaders assured that their saints would be careful while making statements on Sanatani gods and goddesses. Vishva Hindu Parishad(VHP) issued a statement, in which it is stated that Swaminarayan sect's Vadtal's head Rakeshdasji has clarified that, "Swaminarayan sect is part and parcel of Sanatan Dharma, it respects and follows the rituals of Vedic Sanatan religion, as the sect is part of Sanatan religion, it has no intention to hurt sentiments of Sanatan religion and its believers." If the curtains have come down on this internecine spar-

ring, it is in large measure because of the unsparing efforts of the ruling BJP and the Sangh Parivar. The Swaminarayan sect enjoys great patronage and power in Gujarat as well as with Gujaratis worldwide more so amongst the politically and financially influential patidars.

Equally so for the Sanatanis countrywide as they are slated to be an important part of the VHP-led nationwide padyatras before the inauguration of the Ram temple at Ayodhya in the opening part of next year. The BJP cannot afford to alienate either with the 2024 general elections shaping up as an acid test for Narendra Modi's re-election bid in the face of the Opposition INDIA alliance.

However, If BJP leaders countrywide have maintained a stoic silence in the matter of the 'saintly' controversy in Gujarat, it has chosen to ride out all guns blazing in the matter of DMK leader and Tamil Nadu sports and

youth welfare minister Udhaynidhi Stalin's remarks on 'sanatana dharma'. He was speaking at conference titled 'Sanatana Ozhippu Maanaadu' (Sanatana abolition conclave) organised by the Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers and Artists Association.

Speaking at the conclave the minister is reported to have called for the eradication of Sanatana dharma instead of opposing it. Sensing a political opening for electorally taking up cudgels against INDIA wherein TN- ruling DMK is a part, the BJP was upon it in a flash. It's IT cell chief Amit Malviya was quick to interpret it as a call for the 'genocide' of the sanatanis who according to him make -up 80 per cent of the population of Bharat. Union Home Minister Amit Shah pounced on it to pummel the Opposition alliance at an election rally in Rajasthan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi wanted a befitting response to it as well.

international



Britain should avoid calling China a foe or using language that could escalate tensions

KEMI BADENOCH | UK

IMRAN SEEKS ACTION

Pakistan's iailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan Monday filed a petition in a special court seeking contempt of court proceedings against the Attock jail superintendent for allegedly denying him permission to speak to his sons over the phone, according to a media report





unconstitutional government that we are not the solution. urgent reversal to civilian

governance and open spaces where people can participate, influence a company and criticize government actions or lack of action

VOLKER TÜRK UN HUMAN RIGHTS CHIEF

A foreigner's passport is valid for more than one year but perhaps that term could be longer if the parliament would extend it



Thailand's a sick person, with a sluggish recovery





SHORT TAKES

Sonowal in Russia

Moscow: Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, leading an Indian delegation, arrived here on Monday, enroute to Vladivostok, where he will take part in the 8th Eastern Economic Forum, which will be addressed by Russian President Vladimir Putin. The 8th Eastern Economic Forum meeting is being held in the Russia's far eastern city from September 10-13. Sonowal is scheduled to meet Alexey Chekunkov, Minister for the Development of the Russian Far East and Arctic and Vitaly Saveliev, Minister for Transport of Russia among others with an objective to maintain strong ties and foster strategic, trade and logistical cooperation across various sectors, official sources said.

Two killed in crash

Budanest (Hungary): A small propeller-driven plane crashed during an airshow in central people and seriously injuring three people on the ground, police said. The fatal accident at the Börgönd air show in Feiéi county happened at about 3:20 pm local time.

Greece shipping minister resigns

Athens: Greece's shipping minister resigned Monday over the death of a man who was pushed off a ferry ramp by a crew member after arriving late. A Greek prosecutor brought criminal charges against the captain of the island ferry and three crew members over the encounter that resulted in the September 5 drowning of Andonis Kargiotis, 36.



US President Joe Biden raises a toast as he participates in a State Luncheon with Vietnam President Vo Van Thuong in Hanoi, Vietnam

G20 Delhi Declaration sent a 'positive signal': China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Beijing, Sept 11: China finally broke its silence on the New Delhi G20 summit saying that the Declaration adopted by the member nations has sent a "positive signal" that the influential grouping is "working together" to tackle global challenges and promote world economic recovery.

India Saturday pulled off a big diplomatic win after the G20 summit held under its presidency adopted a consensus declaration overcoming major differences on the Russia-Ukraine war, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for ending the "global trust deficit".

In its first comment on the outcome of the two-day summit, which concluded Sunday, the Chinese foreign ministry spoke highly of its outcome.

'The summit adopted a leaders' declaration, which reflects China's proposition and states that the G20 would act in con-

crete ways through partnerships, sending a positive signal of the G20 working together to tackle global challenges and promote world economic recovery and global development," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said.

Asked for her comment on the summit outcome, Mao said, "In the process of preparing for this New Delhi summit, China played a constructive role and always supported the summit in attaching importance to the concerns of developing countries and reaching fruitful outcomes in support of common development.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang attended the summit, deputising for President Xi Jinping. Asked whether China supports the absence of direct criticism of Russia in the G20 statement and whether softer language would help end the conflict in Ukraine, Mao said China's stance on the Ukraine issue is consistent and clear

Rescuers race to Kim to meet Putin find survivors



REUTERS

Imgdal, Morocco, Sept 11: Rescuers Monday searched villages reduced to rubble for any survivors of Morocco's deadliest earthquake in more than six decades, in a desperate race against time as the death toll rose to almost 2,500 and the scale of destruction became clearer.

Search teams from Spain, Britain and Qatar were joining efforts to find people buried under debris after a 6.8 magnitude quake struck late on Friday night in the High Atlas Mountains, with the epicentre 72 km (45 miles) southwest of Marrakech.

Many survivors spent a third night outside, their homes destroyed or rendered unsafe. The state news agency reported the death toll was now 2,497 with 2,476 people injured. Footage from the remote village of Imi N'Tala, filmed by Spanish rescuer Antonio Nogales of the aid group Bomberos Unidos Sin Fronteras (United Firefighters Without Borders), showed men and dogs clambering over steep slopes covered in rubble.

"The level of destruction is ... absolute," said Nogales, struggling to find the right word to describe what he was seeing. "Not a single house has stayed upright. We're going to start our search with dogs and see whether we can find anyone alive."

In Imgdal, a village about 75 km south of Marrakech, women and children huddled early on Monday morning under makeshift tents set up along the road and next to damaged buildings. Further south, a car stood crushed by boulders that had fallen from the cliff.

In the village of Tafeghaghte, Hamid ben Henna described how his eight-vear-old son died under wreckage after he had gone to fetch a knife from the kitchen to cut a melon as the family were having their evening meal. The

rest of the family survived. With much of the quake zone in hard-to-reach areas, the authorities have not issued any estimates for the number of people missing. Roads blocked or obstructed by rocks have made it harder to ac-

cess the worst-hit locations. On a way to the town of Adassil, not far from the epicentre, rescue worker Avman Koait was trying to clear rockfalls that were blocking traffic. There are worse roads further up that are still blocked and we're trying to open them too," he said, as vans loaded with aid squeezed along a narrow

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seoul, Sept 11: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will visit Russia, both countries said Monday, and he is expected to hold a highly anticipated meeting with President Vladimir Putin that has sparked Western concerns about a potential arms deal for Moscow's war in Ukraine.

A brief statement on the Kremlin's website said the visit is at Putin's invitation and would take place "in the coming days". It also was reported by North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency, which said the leaders would meet — without specifying when and where.

"The respected Comrade Kim Jong Un will meet and have a talk with Comrade Putin during the visit," it said. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said delegations from both countries will meet, but he didn't confirm plans for a bilateral session between Putin and Kim, saying the leaders will meet one-on-one "if nec-

The visit would be Kim's first foreign trip since the COVID-19

EBRUARY 2022 SUBSTANTIAL MILITA

pandemic, which had forced North Korea to enforce tight border controls for more than three years to shield its poor health care system. While Kim has shown to be more comfortable using planes than his famously flight-adverse father, he has also used his personal train for previous meetings with Putin, Chinese President Xi Jinping and former US President Donald Trump, reviving a symbol of his

family's dynastic rule. Associated Press journalists

near the North Korea-Russia

frontier saw a green train with yellow trim — similar to one used by the reclusive Kim during previous foreign trips — at a station on the North Korean side of a border river. It was unclear whether Kim

was on the train, which was seen moving back and forth between the station and the approach to the bridge that connects the countries. It had not crossed the bridge as of 7 pm (1000 GMT).

Citing unidentified South

Russia says ruling party

Korean government sources, the Chosun Ilbo newspaper reported the train likely left the North Korean capital of Pyongyang on Sunday evening and that a Kim-Putin meeting is possible as early as Tuesday. The Yonhap news agency and some other media published similar reports. Japan's Kyodo news agency cited Russian officials as saying Kim was possibly heading for Russia in his personal train.

South Korea's Presidential Office, Defense Ministry and National Intelligence Service didn't immediately confirm those details. US officials released intelligence last week that North Korea and Russia were arranging a meeting between their leaders that would take place within this month as they expand their cooperation in the face of deep-_ ening confrontations with the United States.

A possible venue for the meeting is the eastern Russian city of Vladivostok, where Putin arrived Monday to attend an international forum that runs through Wednesday, according to Russia's TASS news agency

B'desh to buy 10 Airbus aircraft

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Dhaka, Sept 11: Bangladesh Monday inked a deal with France for the purchase of 10 Airbus aircraft worth USD 3.2 billion and a letter of intent was exchanged for an earth observation satellite system as French President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina held wide-ranging talks to boost bilateral ties.

Macron, whose visit to Dhaka, the first by a French president in 33 years, is widely seen as a move by Paris to consolidate its Asia-Pacific strategy and counterbalance a "new imperialism" in this part of Asia where China's influence is growing steadily. "Based on democratic principles and the rule of law, in a region facing new imperialism, we want to propose a third way -- with no intention to bully our partners or to lead them to an unsustainable scheme," Macron told Bangladesh Prime Minister Hasina in a veiled

reference to China.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Moscow, Sept 11: Russia's Central Election Commission said on Monday that the country's ruling party won the most votes in elections held in occupied Ukrainian regions, as Kviv and the West denounced the ballots as a sham.

The votes were held as Russian authorities attempt to tighten their grip on territories Moscow illegally annexed a year ago and still does not fully control. Voting for Russia-installed legislatures began last week.

According to the Central Election Commission, lawmakers from the ruling party, United Russia, came out on top in the four Ukrainian regions Moscow annexed in 2022 — Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia — and on the Crimean Peninsula, which the Kremlin annexed in 2014.

Western countries have denounced the elections as a violation of international law. "We strongly reject this further futile attempt by Russia to legitimize or normalize its illegal military control and attempted annexation of parts of Ukrainian territories," the European Commission said Monday in a statement

On Friday, Ukraine's Foreign Ministry urged other countries not to recognise the results of what it called "fake elections." The votes in the Ukrainian regions were timed to coincide with nationwide elections for local legislatures and governors



he votes were held as Russiar authorities attempt to tighten their grip on territories Moscow illegally annexed a year ago and still does not fully control

Western countries have denounced the elections as a violation of international law

across 16 Russian regions. There were also multiple votes for city and municipal councils across the country and races for a few vacant seats in the State Duma, Russia's lower house of

parliament. In Moscow, United Russia received the most votes, returning Sergei Sobyanin as mayor. He won against candidates from other Kremlin-backed parties with more than 76 per cent of the vote, according to the election commission.

Russia's Central Election Commission head Ella Pamfilova said the turnout, averaging 43.5 per cent, was the highest since

The figure includes Russia and the occupied Ukrainian regions. In one of the annexed Ukrainian regions, Russian statemedia reported turnout was even higher.

US commemorates 22 yrs of 9/11 tragedy

At the memorial ceremony, relatives and friends read out the names of all the nearly 3,000 people who died in the terror attacks, paying homage to them, signifying the message that the victims will never be forgotten

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York, Sept 11: American citizens and leaders across the US Monday paid tributes and honoured the memories of the nearly 3,000 people who died in the horrific September 11 terrorist attacks as the US commemorates 22 years of the tragedy

The victims of the 9/11 terror attacks were honoured during a solemn ceremony at the site of the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in Lower Manhattan, where the twin towers of the World Trade Centre once stood and which were razed to the ground when two airlines hi-

jacked by Al-Qaeda terrorists crashed into the towers, forever altering the Manhattan skyline on September 11, 2001. Bells chimed and a moment

of silence was observed at the exact time when tragedy struck across the US 22 years ago - at 8:46 am, the exact moment when American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the North Tower, the first of the four attacks that occurred that morning. At 9:03 am United Airlines Flight 175 struck the South Tower, at 9:37 am American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon near Washington DC, at 9:59 am the South Tower collapsed, 10:03am United Airlines Flight 93



First responders salute as an American flag is unfurled at the Pentagon at sunrise to commemorate the 2001 terrorist attack on the Pentagon, during an observance ceremony, Monday in Washington

crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania and at 10:28 am the North Tower fell.

"Today, we remember the 2,977 precious lives stolen from us on 9/11 and reflect on all that was lost in the fire and ash that

September morning. The American story itself changed on this day 22 years ago. But what could not — and will not change is the character of this nation," President Joe Biden said in a post on platform X.

"September 11 is a day not only to remember, but a day of renewal and resolve for every American — in our devotion to this country, to the principles it embodies, to our democracy. That is what we owe one another. And what we owe future generations of Americans to

come," he said in another post. Vice President Kamala Harris said America will never forget the 2,977 lives lost 22 years ago today at Ground Zero, Shanksville, and the Pentagon."We remain indebted to the heroic first responders, and our hearts are with the family members and friends who lost loved ones," she said in a post on X.

At the memorial ceremony, relatives and friends read out the names of all the nearly 3,000 people who died in the terror attacks, paying homage to them, signifying the message that the victims will never be forgotten.

business



There is definitely some discussion on the FTA (with UK). The key on both the sides is to conclude it as soon as possible

NIRMALA SITHARAMAN | FINANCE MINISTER

LULU GROUP TO LAUNCH IPO IN H1 OF 2024

Hypermarket chain and mall operator Lulu Group International expects to launch its initial public offering (IPO) in the first half of 2024, its chairman said Monday, adding that the company's shares will be listed in gulf. Regarding investments in India, Ali said the company has invested ₹200 billion so far and intends to raise this number to ₹500 billion by 2025





There is tremendous scope for collaboration. Such as in artificial intelligence, robotics, cyber security

automation and space, where we are looking to further liberalise our foreign direct investment norms to bring in private sector and foreign investment in our space sector

RAJESH KUMAR SINGH | SECRETARY, DPIIT

Similar to last fiscal, domestic growth in fiscal 2024, will be led by 5-6 per cent increase in realisations.

supported partly by high price hikes allowed by the **National Pharmaceutical Pricing** Authority (NPPA) for drugs under price regulation

ANIKET DANI RESEARCH DIRECTOR, CRISIL



creating an innovative built environment, greater connections with the consumers, and curating physical storefronts in untapped regions of the country including tier II and III cities

RAHUL ARORA | HEAD OF OFFICE LEASING ADVISORY AND RETAIL SERVICES, JLL

SHORT **TAKES**

IREDA files for IPO

Bangalore: State-owned nonbanking financial company, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). has filed for an initial public offering (IPO) with the country's markets regulator. as per draft papers. This will be the first IPO filed by a public sector enterprise since Life Insurance Corp's subdued listing in May 2022, Established in 1987, IREDA provides financial assistance for setting up projects related to new and renewable sources of energy and energy conservation. The IPO will comprise a fresh issue of up to 403.16 million shares. with an offer for sale of up to 268.78 million shares by the Indian government, as per the draft prospectus dated September 7.

SC warns SpiceJet

New Delhi: India's top court Monday directed SpiceJet to pay \$1.5 million in a case related to unpaid dues to Credit Suisse by September 15 and warned the budget airline of unspecified "drastic action" at the next hearing if it failed to do so. A third of the amount is part of a monthly settlement plan SpiceJet had previously agreed with Credit Suisse, and the rest are unpaid dues to the bank which have accrued since last year after the airline failed to keep up with the payment schedule. If SpiceJet fails to pay, the Supreme Court will take "drastic action" at the next hearing September 22. "Enough of this dilly-dally business ... We are not bothered even if you die," one of the two judges said during the hearing which was attended by SpiceJet chief Ajay Singh.

11th e-auction under OMSS

New Delhi: State-owned Food Corporation of India (FCI) has sold 1.66 lakh tonne of wheat and only 17,000 tonne of rice from the central pool through 11th e-auction last week as part of the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) to control retail prices. Last month, the government announced it will offload additional 50 lakh tonne of wheat and 25 lakh tonne of rice from the central pool in the open market to bulk buyer to contain cereal prices. The food ministry, in a statement, said in the 11th e-auction held September 6, a total of 2 lakh tonne of wheat from 500 depots and 4.89 lakh tonne of rice from 337 depots were offered from across the country.

MILESTONE MOMENT Mutual fund SIPs NIFTY SCALES MOUNT 20K touch record high

INDICES EXTEND RALLY TO 7TH DAY AS LOCAL. GLOBAL INVESTORS PILE INTO STOCKS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 11: Benchmark Sensex jumped by 528 points to regain the 67,000 level while Nifty scaled the record 20,000 mark for the first time as robust buying by domestic investors helped equity markets extend the winning run to the seventh straight session Monday.

The successful G20 summit and buying in index majors Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank also added to the winning momentum in equities.

The 30-share BSE Sensex regained the 67,000 level. The benchmark jumped 528.17 points or 0.79 per cent to settle at 67.127.08. During the day, it rallied 573.22 points or 0.86 per cent to 67,172.13.

The Nifty hit its all-time high of 20,008.15, a gain of 188.2 points or 0.94 per cent, in day trading. The 50-issue barometer closed just below the 20,000 mark at 19,996.35, reflecting gains of 176.40 points or 0.89 per cent.

Among the Sensex firms, Axis Bank, Power Grid, Maruti, State Bank of India, Tata Motors, ITC, Nestle and Mahindra & Mahindra were the major gainers. Bajaj Finance and Larsen & Toubro were the laggards.

India Saturday pulled off a big diplomatic win after the G20 summit adopted a consensus declaration overcoming major differences on the Russia-Ukraine war, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for ending "global trust deficit".

In the broader market, the



■ NIFTY 50 AT ALL-TIME **HIGH WHILE BSE SENSEX REGAINED 67K LEVEL**

■ NIFTY 50, BSE SENSEX **HAVE RISEN OVER 10% EACH SO FAR THIS YEAR**

■ DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONS **HAVE BOUGHT ₹1.17TRN WORTH OF SHARES IN 2023**

BSE midcap gauge jumped 1.20

per cent and smallcap index

climbed 0.70 per cent. All the in-

dices ended with gains, with

services rallying 3.01 per cent,

utilities jumping 2.43 per cent,

telecommunication (2.32 per

cent), power (2.04 per cent), auto

(1.59 per cent), bankex (1.06 per

cent), commodities (0.97 per

cent), financial services (0.94

A total of 2,107 stocks ad-

(0.93 per cent).

BIZ BUZZ

Bhubaneswar: "The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor

economic growth, creating jobs, and reducing greenhouse gas

businesses to collaborate and benefit," said Subhrakant Panda

creating opportunities for domestic and foreign investors. He also

businesses and increase non-oil exports. "Similarly, Saudi Arabia has

to 50%, besides investing heavily in world-class infrastructure. Trade

increased 23% to 52 billion dollars last year and doubled compared to

five years ago. FICCI will work with Invest India and other stakeholders

to strengthen these relations." he added, Pivush Goval, Union Minister

of Commerce, and His Excellency Khalid Al Falih, Industry and Minister

of Investment, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, were present at the forum and

discussed bilateral ties, which have seen trade double in five years, as

set in motion reforms to empower businesses and raise non-oil exports

commended Saudi Arabia for its ongoing efforts to empower its

emissions. It will be a great opportunity for Indian and Saudi

announced during the G20 Summit will be instrumental in stimulating

President of FICCI, while speaking at the India-Saudi Arabia Investment

Forum held in New Delhi. He highlighted India's rapid economic growth,

India-Middle East-Europe Economic

Corridor to empower growth: Panda

cent) and metal

Nifty past the 20K mark SHRIKANT CHOUHAN | HEAD OF RESEARCH (RETAIL), KOTAK SECURITIES LTD

vanced while 1,665 declined and

170 remained unchanged. As

many as 370 firms hit their 52-

the face of global

macroeconomic

headwinds has given investors the

bets and propelled the benchmark

confidence to maintain bullish

India's resilient growth in

week high while 17 fell to their one-year low. The rupee closed almost flat at 83.03 against the US dollar Monday as elevated crude oil prices and global inflation worries weighed on the local currency despite a record rally in equities fuelled by FII inflows.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.30 per cent to

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SIAM said Monday.

year to 1,81,825 units.

from 12,236 units.

Overall passenger

New Delhi, Sept 11: Passenger

vehicle wholesales in the coun-

try rose 9 per cent year-on-year

in August on the back of strong

demand for utility models, in-

cluding SUVs, industry body

despatches to dealers rose to 3,59,228

units last month from 3,28,376

units in August 2022. Utility vehicle

sales increased 34 per cent year-on-

the other hand, declined 10 per

cent to 1,20,031 units from 1,33,477

units in August 2022. Van whole-

sales also dipped to 11,859 units

ever August month sales for pas-

senger vehicles and three-wheel-

ers," Society of Indian

Automobile Manufacturers

(SIAM) President Vinod

Aggarwal said in a statement.

64,763 units in August as against

Three-wheeler sales rose to

"Last month saw the highest

Passenger car despatches, on

Foreign portfolio investors have bought shares worth ₹1.57 trillion on a net basis so far in fiscal 2024. In contrast, they sold shares worth ₹376.32 billion on a net basis last year

\$90.38 a barrel.

The BSE benchmark had jumped 333.35 points or 0.50 per cent to finish at 66,598.91 Friday. The broader Nifty advanced 92.90 points or 0.47 per cent to settle at 19.819.95

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) turned net buyers in the capital markets Monday as they purchased shares worth ₹1.473.09 crore on net basis.

BSE-LISTED FIRMS' MCAP AT PEAK

The market capitalisation (mcap) of BSE-listed firms reached an all-time high of ₹324.26 lakh crore Monday as the Sensex regained the 67,000mark, rallying for the seventh day running.

In seven days, the BSE benchmark has zoomed 2,295.67 points, or 3.54 per cent.

The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies jumped to a new high of ₹3,24,26,555.38 crore, with investors' wealth gaining ₹14,67,416.68 crore in

Powered by utility vehicles,

PV despatches increase 9%

at levels similar to a year ago,'

Aggarwal said, adding that the

industry also witnessed good

growth in the commercial ve-

"Based on the performance

last month, we are even more

optimistic for demand to pick

up during the festive season, en-

abled by positive economic out

look and the revival of monsoon

In the passenger vehicle seg-

after a deficit in August,'

Aggarwal said.

hicle segment in August.

EQUITY MUTUAL FUNDS SAW INFLOWS RISE SEQUENTIALLY FOR THE 30TH **CONSECUTIVE MONTH IN AUGUST**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Sept 11: Investors poured in a record ₹15,813 crore in August through systematic investments plans (SIPs) route offered by mutual fund players, an industry body said Monday.

The Association of Mutual Funds in India (Amfi) also said there was a net outflow of ₹25.872 crore from the income or debt oriented schemes in August.

Its chief executive NS Venkatesh told reporters that the Reserve Bank's incremental cash reserve ratio (CRR) measure to suck out excess liquidity "partially impacted" the industry's performance on the debt side as such schemes are looked at more from a treasury management perspective by banks as well.

The previous monthly high of SIPs inflows was ₹15,244 crore in the preceding month of July. Venkatesh said the overall assets under management (AUM) for SIPs were ₹8.47 lakh crore at the end of August and a record 35 lakh new SIPs were started in the month.

The overall AUM for retail investors' bets on equity and

Rival Hyundai Motor India

As per automobile dealer' body

FADA, passenger vehicle retail

sales increased by 7 per cent to

3.15.153 units last month from

Similarly, two-wheeler regis-

trations saw a jump of 6 per cent

to 12,54,444 units as against

11,80,230 units in the same month

despatched 53,830 units to deal-

ers as against 49.510 units in the

same month last year.

2,95,842 units a year ago.

last year.



AUM FOR SIPS AT ₹8.47L-CR RECORD 35L NEW SIPS OPENED

hybrid schemes was at ₹24.38 lakh crore across 12.30 crore portfolios as at end-August.

There was also a record 19.58 lakh SIPs discontinued or matured in August, Venkatesh said, adding the same stood at over 17 lakh in July.

The MF industry's overall AUM grew to ₹46.93 lakh crore in August, as against ₹46.37 lakh crore in July. In an SIP, an individual in-

vests at periodic intervals like once a month starting from ₹500 onwards. The 43-player industry has a high reliance on SIP flows.

Meanwhile, Venkatesh said the dip in debt AUMs does not point to any trend as it can be the result of the ongoing treasury operations.

There was a ₹348 crore fall in large cap schemes' AUMs, Venkatesh said, adding that he expects a reversal in it soon and the same will be driven by higher earnings growth.

Byiu's proposes sale of overseas units to repay \$1.2bn loan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Sept 11: Ed-tech titan Byju's is looking to sell its overseas ventures Epic and Great Learning to pay back its entire \$1.2 billion (Rs 9,956 crore) loan to lenders, a source familiar with the matter said.

The ed-tech decacorn has been in discussions with the lenders and has made a proposal to clear its Term B loan, the source said.

Byju's hopes to garner between \$800 million to \$1 billion from the sale of Epic, the USbased kids learning firm, and Great Learning - the upskilling platform.

The firm is also working on raising fresh capital from equity sales, and is working with bankers for the sale of the aforementioned key assets to strategic investors -- which has also garnered interest, the source

THE LEARNING APP

38,369 units in the same month Besides, three-wheeler retail ment, Maruti Suzuki India saw well as cooperation in many areas of mutual interest. The forum was sales saw a jump of 66 per cent last year. Two-wheeler despatches an increase of 16 per cent in organised by FICCI in association with the Department for Promotion of increased to 15,66,594 units from to 99,907 units in August from despatches to dealers at 1,56,114 Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the Government of India, and the 60,132 units in August 2022, FADA 15,57,429 units. units from 1,34,166 units in Ministry of Investment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia "Two-wheeler sales remained said in its report last week.

Govt may relook at allowing firms to list overseas

INDIAN COMPANIES CAN ONLY LIST ON FOREIGN EXCHANGES THROUGH INSTRUMENTS SUCH AS DEPOSITORY RECEIPTS

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Sept 11: India may reconsider allowing local firms to list on foreign exchanges, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said Monday, signalling New Delhi could revive a plan

put on hold due to

domestic opposition

and tax concerns. Under current reguoverseas directly lations, Indian firms are not allowed to list directly on overseas exchanges. They can only list on foreign exchanges through instruments such as

depository receipts. The plan to allow direct overseas listing of Indian firms was first announced in 2020, but was shelved following concerns

around tax losses and opposi-

tion from a faction of the ruling party, which feared less Indian regulatory oversight of domestic firms that list abroad. Sitharaman was

Jeremy Hunt

after the week-

India speaking at a joint had first announced press conference overseas listing plan with British in 2020 Finance India may allow its firms to list Minister

on London Stock Exchange following bi-Current rules do not lateral talks allow firms to list

> end's G20 meetings in New Delhi. Hunt told the press that the Indian government had said it would consider allowing Indian companies to list directly on the

London Stock Exchange. "We are particularly pleased to make a big step forward to make a first confirmation by India that it will explore the



seas listings.

In July, India said it would

allow companies to list on ex-

changes registered in the

International Financial Services

Centre (IFSC), a new financial tax

neutral hub housed in the

Gujarat International Financial

Tech City (GIFT) in India, to

give companies easier access to

London Stock Exchange as an international destination for the direct listing of Indian companies," Hunt said.

In 2020, Reuters reported that the London Stock Exchange was in talks with several Indian technology firms for their overseas stock listings, before the government shelved allowing over-

We have mentioned earlier once that we are looking at listing, commencing with the IFSC, so once that is done, we may look at moving further (with overseas listing)," Sitharaman said. "So at this stage we have said that we are looking at listing in IFSC first."

foreign capital.

Debt, including Masala and green bonds, can be listed on these platforms to raise foreign

The LSE is the largest global centre for Masala Bonds, having raised over 50 per cent of the total aggregate amount originated globally. Over the last 5 years, Indian firms have raised 13.41 billion pounds in masala, dollar and green bonds listed on the LSE. UK banks were among the first international banks to set up shops in GIFT City.

is hoping to repay the entire \$1.2 billion term loan B (TLB) in under six months. Of this, it is proposing to repay \$300 million in the next three months. Lenders have not yet responded to the proposal. Byju's in November 2021

India's most-valued startup

raised \$1.2 billion in debt through a term loan facility (TLB) from a group of overseas investors. A TLB is a type of senior secured syndicated credit facility that is issued by global institutional investors. Typically, the proceeds from a TLB are used to either refinance an existing debt or to make overseas acquisitions in order to enhance a company's offerings.

Byju's had acquired Aakash \$950 million in 2021. In July this year, the steering committee of ad hoc term loan lenders is reported to have agreed to amend the \$1.2 billion term loan.

The company had acquired— Epic in a \$500 million cashand-stock deal in May 2022.

Record-breaking Kohli, comeback-man Rahul hit centuries before Kuldeep fifer seals India's 228-run win against Pakistan in Asia Cup

Sheet domination

MATCH SCHEDULE

Time: 3 pm

Telecast: Star Sports Network

Stream: Disney+Hotstar

for India against Pakistan.

En route to his 77th international cen-

tury, Kohli also added some personal

milestones to an already long list, be-

coming the fastest batsman to 13,000

ODI runs and scoring his fourth ton

in as many innings at the R Premadasa

Stadium. Kohli is only the second bat-

ter to achieve the feat of scoring four

successive hundreds at a venue after

South Africa's Hashim Amla, who

However, Rahul's hundred was

equally important from a team's per-

spective. Rahul, who was playing for

India for the first time since earlier this

March after an injury lay-off, batted

for 141 minutes without any discom-

fort, and later kept wickets to under-

line his return to full fitness. Beyond

the cold realm of numbers, the knocks

of Kohli and Rahul carried immeas-

Indian bowlers did not have to do any-

thing extraordinary as they were de-

fending 357, and the highest-ever run

urable aesthetic value.

chase at this venue was 292.

made this sequence at Centurion.

DRESMI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Colombo, Sept 11: Virat Kohli's supreme fitness was evident in his 47th ODI century (122 n o, 94b, 9x4, 3x6) while comeback man KL Rahul produced an equally engaging ton (111 n o, 106b, 12x4, 2x6) on comeback as India thrashed a listless Pakistan by record 228-run margin in a rain-marred Super 4 game of the Asia Cup here Sunday.

This is India's biggest win in terms of runs against the cross-border neighbours. India posted an imposing 356/2, as Kohli and Rahul pummelled a hapless Pakistan, whose chase ended at 128/8 after Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah didn't come out to bat due to injuries. Kuldeep Yadav (5/25) was excellent with the ball.

Once India restarted the day from 147/2 in 24.1 overs, they needed Kohli and Rahul, the two overnight batters, to go big, and they did that in some style. Along with Rahul, Kohli amassed 233 runs for the unbeaten third wicket stand – the highest ODI partnership

13024 Runs in ODIs for Virat became the fifth batter to score 13000 runs in ODIs after Sachin (18426), Kumar Sangakkara (14234), Ricky Ponting (13704) and Sanath Jayasuriya (13430) 267 Innings taken by Virat to reach the 13000-run milestone, breaking Sachin's record of 321

at th

This century was his fourth on trot at the R Premadasa Stadium in

Pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who was bowling in an ODI for the first time since July 2022, gave India the perfect start, sending Imamul-Haq into the hands of Shubman Gill at second slip. Hardik Pandya breached the defence of Pakistan captain Babar Azam with a delivery that shaped in just that bit.

Kuldeep, India's best bowler in ODIs this year, hastened their fall as the left-arm wrist spinner bamboozled the Pakistan middle and late order with his endless variations. The injured Rauf and Naseem did not come out to bat as Indian bowlers were not even required to strive for 10 wickets.

BRIEF SCORES: India 356/2 (Virat Kohli 122 n o, KL Rahul 111 n o, Shubman Gill 58, Rohit Sharma 56; Shadab Khan 1/71, Shaheen Shah Afridi 1/79) beat Pakistan 128 (Fakhar Zaman 27; Kuldeep Yadav 5/25) by 228 runs.

The unbeaten partnership was the second highest for the third wicket in ODIs after the unbroken 237-run stand between Sachin and Rahul Dravid against Kenya in 1999



New Delhi, Sept 11: Repeated failures in tournaments this season has dented P V Sindhu's confidence and not much should be expected from the ace Indian shuttler at the Asian Games, says former India coach Vimal Kumar.

The double Olympic medallist has found the going tough ever since returning from a five-month long lay-off following an ankle injury en-route to the Commonwealth Games gold last August.

Desperate to arrest the slide, the 28-year-old sought help of legendary Prakash Padukone and trained under him at his Academy PPBA in Bangalore last week.

"We have been sitting and observing her sessions. Prakash spoke to her and tried to motivate her. We have also interacted with her coach (Muhammad Hafiz Hashim)," Vimal, who is the director of the PPBA, told this news agency.

"She is at the moment low on confidence and she has some work to do. We shouldn't expect much from her at the Asian Games," he added.

The 2019 world champion has lost seven times in the first round of BWF tour events this year. A semifinal finish at the Canada Open and two quarterfinals – US Open super 300 and Australian Open super 500 – are the only notable performances

Plagued by a string of underwhelming performances, Sindhu had conceded that the quarterfinal loss at the US Open had "a significant emotional impact" on her.

"This loss has left a significant emotional impact on me, especially considering the challenging and demanding year I've had. It's disheartening to experience a disappointing defeat after each successful tournament," she wrote on 'X' in July.

After observing the shuttler from close quarters during her week-long stint, Vimal feels Sindhu needs to make a few technical changes in her game and is likely to take some time to regain her form.

"She is a big player and it is important to give her some time, it might take her a few months to regain her touch. There are a few technical aspects, where she can make some changes. Some initiatives she needs to take in the technical aspect."

Ahead of the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, Sindhu has pulled out of the China Open Super 1000 and Hong Kong Open Super 500 to focus on the multi-sport event beginning September 23.

Her personal coach, Malaysian Hafiz Hashim was also with her when she trained at the PPBA last week. For World No.14 Sindhu, it is a crucial period in her career with the Olympic qualification period for the 2024 Games having already started from May 1.



No.24 and still counting

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New York, Sept 11: Halfway through a second set that lasted one hour, 44 minutes, a test of tenacity as much as talent amid a US Open final as exhausting as it was exhilarating, Novak Djokovic and Daniil Medvedev engaged each other in a 32-stroke point.

It was among many such elongated exchanges between two men whose styles are nearly mirror images, and Djokovic capitulated by netting a backhand. He fell to his back and stayed down, chest heaving. The crowd roared. Djokovic sat up but remained on the ground for a bit. The crowd roared some more, appreciating the effort, saluting the entertainment.

Using every ounce of his energy and some serve-and-volley guile — an old man with new tricks — Djokovic emerged for a 6-3, 7-6(7-5), 6-3 victory over Medvedev at Flushing Meadows to claim a historic 24th Grand Slam title Sunday night in a match more closely contested than the straight-set score indicated.

Djokovic, at 36 years of age, became the tournament's oldest male champion in the Open era, which dates to

1968. He moved one major singles title ahead of Serena Williams and is the first player to win 24 in the Open era. Margaret Court also collected a total of 24, but 13 of those

of 24, but 13
of those
came before
professionals
were admitted to the
Slam events.
Djokovic's
fourth champi-

onship in New York goes alongside 10 trophies from the

tend-

A TRIBUTE TO KOBE

New York: Novak Djokovic couldn't think about No.24 without thinking of Kobe

Bryant. So after winning the US Open Sunday night for a historic 24th Grand Slam title, Djokovic put on a blue T-shirt that honored the Los Angeles Lakers great. The shirt read "Mamba Forever" on the front, along with pictures of Bryant and Djokovic. On the back in purple was the No.24, one of two numbers Bryant wore during his Hall of Fame career. Djokovic said he came up with the idea about a week ago as a way to honor his friend. He said he received advice on his own career from Bryant, who died in 2020 in a helicopter crash that also killed his daughter, Gianna, and seven others. "Kobe was a close friend, we chatted a lot about the winner's mentality when I was struggling with injury and trying to make my comeback, work my way back to the top of the game," Djokovic said. "He was one of the people that I relied on the most. He was always there for any kind of counsel, advice, any kind of support in the most friendly way," Djokovic continued. "I thought 24 is the jersey he wore when he became a legend of the Lakers and world basketball, so I thought it could be a nice, symbolic thing to acknowledge him for all the things he's done."



Odisha FC unveil kits for upcoming season

POST NEWS NETWORK

is more". It reflects their clean

Bhubaneswar, Sept 11: Odisha FC (OFC) conducted their kit launch at the Kalinga Stadium here Monday as they geared up for an exciting fifth season of Indian Super League (ISL), kicking off September 21.

MURIT-

The event, which promised to be a grand affair, featured the participation of the club's head coach Sergio Lobera, and other key officials, including Santosh Kashyap (head of youth development), Abhik Chatterjee (general manager) and Ravi Khedar (head of business) as well as club captains Amrinder Singh and Roy Krishna.

Among others, Siddhartha Das, IAS, Director, DSYS and

DUTCH RECOVER

36

ODISHA
RA-S SELF AFFISCATE

ODISHA
CAS SELF

Bijayananda Nayak, OAS, joint secretary, DSYS graced the occasion as chief guests. The DSYS officials were felicitated with the season's new jerseys from Odisha FC.

MIRE

Centuries in ODIs for Virat Kohli (278

Tendulkar's record 49 tons (463 matches).

matches), only two behind Sachin

It was also his 77th century in international cricket,

KIT DETAILS
Home Kit (Black & Purple):
This kit embodies the principles of minimalism and simplicity, appealing to the younger

For them, simplicity is the ultimate sophistication. **Away Kit (White):** The white kit pays homage to Odisha's rich roots and culture, emphasizing grace, purity, and simplicity. We take pride in our heritage and

ethos, valuing grace and purity

as our style statement. This kit

is more". It reflects their clean and straightforward style, where

everything runs in straight lines.

serves as a representation of our history in our daily lives. **Third Kit (Yellow & Purple):** The third kit draws inspiration from the Simlipal Tiger Reserve, located in the Indian state of Odisha. This reserve is one of the country's premier wildlife conservation

areas and a vital stronghold for the

Odisha FC. generation's preference for "less Bengal tiger (Panthera tigris). 3 more added to Asiad team

TO BEAT IRELAND
ASSOCIATED PRESS

London, Sept 11: The Netherlands recovered from Virgil van Dijk conceding an early penalty to beat Ireland 2-1 and overcome a hurdle in its European Championship qualifying campaign.

Van Dijk gave away a penalty for handball at a corner in just the second minute in Dublin and the spot kick was promptly converted by Ireland's Adam Idah. Ireland's physical style seemed to make the Netherlands wary in the early stages but the hosts soon conceded a penalty of their own when goalkeeper Gavin Bazunu tripped Denzel Dumfries, allowing Cody Gakpo to score from the spot.

A strong Dutch start to the second half was rewarded when Wout Weghorst scored in the 56th after Dumfries headed on a ball from deep into his teammate's path

deep into his teammate's path.

The Netherlands and Greece are fighting for the second qualifying spot having nine points each in Group B behind table toppers France (10 points).

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Sept 11: Haryana's 3000m steeplechaser Priti Lamba was Monday added to the Indian athletics team for the Hangzhou Asian Games along with top sprinter Amlan Borgohain and quartermiler Prachi, after the conclusion of the Indian Grand Prix 5 here.

The 27-year-old Lamba won the 3000m steeplechase on the final day of the IGP 5. She breached the Asian Games qualifying time of 9 minute 47 seconds set by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), by clocking 9:45.13 in a two-woman field.

She had finished second at the National Inter-State Championships behind Parul Chaudhary with a time of 9:52.89, and improved it to 9:48.50 while finishing fourth at the Asian Championships in July.

Uttar Pradesh's Prachi got the approval of AFI selection committee to compete in the women's 4x400m relay, while Borgohain will compete in the men's 200m. The sports ministry has already announced a 65-member athlet-



68-member team.

ics team for the Asian Games

last month. Monday's inclusion

of three athletes will make it a

AFI president Adille

Sumariwalla had earlier said

that Borgohain, the national

record holder in both men's 100m

and 200m races, will be added to

the Asian Games team. The AFI

confirmed his inclusion in the

team after a selection committee

dropped injured men's 20km

race walk national record holder

Akshdeep Singh and replaced

decided not to select the men

and women's 4x100m relay teams

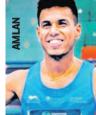
as they failed to breach the qual-

The national federation also

The AFI selection panel also

meeting here Monday.

him with Vikash Singh.





ifying marks.

There was a lot of anticipation as to whether the men's and women's 4x100m relay races would breach the Asian Games qualifying marks of 39 seconds and 44.50 seconds respectively. But both the teams' quartets, made up of the best Indian runners, missed the qualifying mark.

The women's Team A 4x100m quartet of Nithya Gandhe, Vijaya Kumari, Srabani Nanda and Jyothi Yarraji clocked 44.66 – 0.16 seconds shy of the qualifying mark. The men's Team A quartet of Harjit Singh, Amlan, Amiya Kumar Mallick and B Siva Kumar clocked 39.24 – 0.24 seconds outside the qualifying mark.

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